

# INFORMATION REPORT

March 20, 2009

SECY-09-0044

For: The Commissioners

From: Vonna L. Ordaz  
Assistant for Operations  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING  
MARCH 13, 2009

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\*No input this week.

***/RA Mindy S. Landau Acting For/***

Vonna L. Ordaz  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
S. Bagley, OEDO

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03/19/09	03/20/09

**ML090830110**

## WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 13, 2009

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

Contact: Susan Bagley, OEDO by E-mail: [Susan.Bagley@nrc.gov](mailto:Susan.Bagley@nrc.gov).

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**PgDn** and **PgUp** can also be used to advance through the text.

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\*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant License Renewal Application

On March 2, 2009, the staff conducted a public meeting with Northern States Power Company (the applicant), to discuss the Unit 2 reactor cavity leakage path and potential aging effect on the primary containment, as part of the review of the license renewal application for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. A representative of the Prairie Island Indian Community attended the meeting.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Regarding Motor Operated Valve (MOV) Topical Reports

On March 3, 2009, the staff met with NEI, EPRI and other industry representatives to discuss two MOV-related topical reports prior to submitting them for NRC review. The first, EPRI Report 1015069, was developed to provide an optional, non-intrusive testing approach for defining MOV margin based on motor control center (MCC)-based motor torque measurements. The NRC staff provided feedback on the proposed methodology to NEI and EPRI during the meeting. The second topical report, EPRI Report 103237, provides minor revisions to a previously NRC-approved method for determining the required thrust or torque to stroke gate, globe, and butterfly valves under design basis conditions. Based on the NEI and EPRI presentation, the NRC staff considered the proposed changes to be minor, with no impact on the previously accepted methodology. The NEI plans to submit both reports in approximately 3-6 weeks and request fee waivers to support non-fee billable reviews for both topical reports on the basis that they support NRC ongoing generic regulatory improvements.

Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191 Chemical Effects Audit of Palisades

From March 3 to 6, 2009, the staff conducted an audit on the chemical effects analyses developed in response to Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02 for Palisades. The staff interacted with Palisades and their strainer vendor and reviewed technical documents on chemical effects analyses and strainer head loss testing. The staff determined that the chemical effects analyses and predictive modeling of chemical precipitates performed by the licensee is generally adequate to address those aspects of GL 2004-02. However, there were three significant draft open items discussed at the exit meeting. The staff identified one draft open item related to the licensee's calculation of dissolved aluminum in the sump. The licensee indicated that they will provide additional information in an expedited manner in an attempt to resolve the draft open item related to aluminum prior to issuance of the audit report by the staff. The other two open items are specific to the licensee's head loss testing. The staff projects these two draft open items will remain in the final audit report and the licensee will need to perform additional evaluations or testing to fully respond to these items. The licensee will need to adequately address all open items in their final response to GL 2004-02.

Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Regarding Final 10 CFR 50.61a, "Alternate Fracture Toughness Requirements for Protection Against Pressurized Thermal Shock" Rulemaking

On March 4 and 5, 2009, the staff briefed the ACRS Subcommittee on Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels and the ACRS Full Committee regarding the final rulemaking package. The staff's presentations provided a brief overview of the technical basis for the final rule, the generalization study performed to demonstrate the applicability of the final rule to the existing power water reactor fleet, and the content of the final rule itself. The staff also answered all ACRS questions regarding the topics above.

Teleconference Meeting with LaSalle Licensee

On March 9, 2009, a teleconference meeting was held with NRC staff and the LaSalle licensee regarding LaSalle's License Amendment Request for their spent fuel pool criticality analysis where they are restricting the loading of spent fuel pump (SFP) cells to a 3 out of 4 configuration with the 4th location being physically blocked so a spent fuel bundle cannot be placed in the 4th location to prevent an inadvertent criticality. The licensee did not include the possibility of misloading a fuel bundle into the 4th position because they are using a blocking device, combined with procedural checklists. Consequently, they consider that a spent fuel bundle misloading is non-credible.

Since there is a history of misloadings in the spent fuel pool at various plants the NRC is not convinced that a misloading is non-credible. There are several instances of fuel bundles and other objects in the SFP being misloaded or improperly moved even though they were under strict controls to prevent the events. Some plants have misloaded more than one fuel bundle during the same evolution. The NRC, at this point, believes that it is credible to mislocate a blocking device which could lead to a misloaded fuel bundle.

The next step is for the NRC Project Manager for LaSalle to have the Human Performance Branch and the PRA Branch determine if there are any regulatory guidelines regarding what determines a credible event. If a fuel bundle misloading event is credible then the licensee must analyze for such an event.

Public Meeting with the NEI and Industry Leaders

On March 9, 2009, the staff held a public meeting at NRC headquarters to hear industry concerns regarding the integration of Part 26 Subpart I, Managing Fatigue, into the Reactor Oversight Process. The meeting was supported by the offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Nuclear Regulatory Research, and New Reactors.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

Public Phone Call Meetings on Yucca Mountain Nevada

On March 11, 2009, NRC staff held two public teleconferenced phone calls with the U.S. Department of Energy staff on two Requests for Additional Information on the Yucca Mountain License Application.

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Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

NRC and Wyoming Coordinate on Uranium Recovery Environmental Reviews

On March 6, 2009, NRC staff held a conference call with the Administrator for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Land Quality Division. The purpose of the call was to discuss DEQ's request for early coordination on the site-specific environmental reviews for in-situ recovery applications in the State. Both NRC and the Wyoming DEQ agreed that early and frequent interactions regarding these environmental reviews would be beneficial.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

2nd Workshop on the International Human Reliability Analysis (HRA) Empirical Study

On March 2-4, 2009, RES hosted the 2nd workshop on the “International HRA Empirical Study” at the Hilton Hotel in Rockville, Maryland. This study is being pursued as a collaborative effort under the auspices of the Halden Reactor Project. The objective of the study is to “benchmark” HRA models by comparing HRA results to empirical data generated by nuclear reactor operator simulator runs at the Halden simulator. About 40 HRA experts participated in the workshop representing 15 HRA analysis teams from about a dozen Halden organizations, including NRC, national laboratories, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the French (regulator and industry), Korean, and Swiss regulators among others. During the meeting, the Phase 2 results were presented and discussed, and strategies for how to use the findings to improve the HRA methods and practices were developed.

Briefing of the Advisory on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the International HRA Empirical Study

On March 6, 2009, RES briefed the ACRS Full Committee on the International HRA Empirical Study at the ACRS meeting room. The objective of study is to “benchmark” HRA models by comparing HRA results to empirical data generated by nuclear reactor operator simulator runs. The staff provided a status report on the study that supports the Commission direction to ACRS to work with the staff and other stakeholders to address issues related to the differences in HRA models (SRM-M061020). Presenters included staff from NRC, Sandia National Laboratories, Electric Power Research Institute, Halden Reactor Project, and Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland.

Publication of Draft Regulatory Guide 1204 (DG-1204) “Guidance for ITAAC Closure Under 10 CFR Part 52”

On March 9, 2009, RES staff issued DG-1204 to provide an opportunity for public comments. This is a proposed new regulatory guide that describes a method that NRC considers acceptable for use in satisfying the requirements for documenting the completion of inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria. DG-1204 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>.

Meeting with Targeted External Stakeholders on Advanced Modeling Techniques for Level 2 and Level 3 Probabilistic Risk Assessments (PRAs)

On March 9, 2009, NRC staff held a brainstorming session with targeted external stakeholders on advanced modeling techniques for Level 2 and Level 3 PRAs. This meeting is associated with an ongoing activity in this technical area stemming from the inaugural Long-Term Research Plan (SECY-07-0192) and relates to the agency’s strategy to use state-of-the-art methods. Participants included representatives from NRC (RES, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Office of New Reactors), academia, industry, consulting firms, and national labs. The objective was to obtain diverse viewpoints on the strengths and limitations of existing and

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alternative approaches and, on this basis, it was a success. The meeting benefited from the diverse viewpoints expressed by the participants, which ranged widely in terms of preferred approach, level of reliance on the practitioner versus computer simulation, scope of analysis, and resultant usage. The range of views expressed during the meeting were generally consistent with the breadth of feedback received previously from internal stakeholders but differed in detail due to the extensive recent practical experience in developing Level 2 and 3 PRAs held by the external stakeholders. If work in this area continues, it is clear that a future meeting of a similar group would be very valuable in commenting on any specific approach that the NRC pursues.

Publication of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.200, Revision 2, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities."

On March 12, 2009, the staff published an RG that describes an acceptable approach for determining whether the technical adequacy of the PRA, in total or the parts that are used to support an application, is sufficient to provide confidence in the results such that the PRA can be used in regulatory decisionmaking for light-water reactors. RG 1.200 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/active/>.

Publication of RG 10.4, Revision 3, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Licenses to Process Source Material."

On March 12, 2009, the staff published a RG that directs the reader to the type of information acceptable to NRC staff for the review of an application for new licenses, license amendments, and license renewals for the processing and use of source material in activities such as research and development, shielding, manufacturing depleted uranium and thorium-magnesium alloy products, manufacturing glass containing uranium, manufacturing and distributing other products containing source material, or shaping, grinding, and polishing lenses containing thorium. RG 10.4 is available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/general/active/>.

Office of Administration (ADM)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

Technical and Scientific Nuclear Expertise Services

On March 5, 2009, as a result of a negotiated acquisition under the 8(a) program of the Small Business Act, a time and materials contract (NRC-08-09-305) was awarded to Qi Tech LLC in Vienna, Virginia. The purpose of the contract is to provide the NRC's Office of International Programs with technical and scientific expertise applicable to nuclear power plants planned or under construction, and related radioactive sources. The period of performance is March 6, 2009, through March 5, 2010, with one six-month option period. The total value, including the option period, is \$983,893.00.

Computer Independent Verification & Validation (IV&V) Services

On March 5, 2009, as the result of a competitive acquisition under the General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedule, Blanket Purchase Agreement No. NRC-DR-09-09-138 was awarded to Aegis.net, Inc. of Merrifield, Virginia. The purpose of the contract is to provide the NRC's Office of the Chief Financial Officer with IV&V Services for financial systems. The period of performance is March 5, 2009, through March 4, 2011. The total value is \$781,298.30.

Safeguards Information Local Area Network System Operation and Maintenance

On March 5, 2009, as the result of a competitive acquisition under the GSA Federal Supply Schedule, Task Order No. NRC-DR-07-09-136 was awarded to HumanTouch, LLC of McLean, Virginia. The purpose of the contract is to support the NRC in operating and maintaining the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response Safeguards Information Local Area Network System. The period of performance is March 6, 2009, through March 5, 2010, with nine option years. The total value, including option years, is \$8,597,345.80.

Office of Information Services (OIS)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

Approval of Records Retention Schedules

On March 4, 2008, the IRSD received approval from the National Archives and Records Administration for two records disposition schedules. These schedules cover the following NRC information systems:

1. The Reactor Programs System (RPS) is used to plan, schedule, conduct, report, and analyze inspection activities and supports the license fee collection process. The RPS incorporated the functions previously performed by eight independent systems.
2. The Research Information Management System is used to store and manage convenience copies of information about procurement activities and provides a tracking system for information used by the technical, procurement, and budget staff.

Approval of these disposition schedules enables the NRC to dispose of records associated with these systems when they reach the end of their lifecycle and have no further legal, fiscal, or operational value to the agency.

Article Submission to the Nuclear Information and Records Management Association's (NIRMA) Newsletter

On March 4, 2009, staff from the Information and Records Services Division submitted an article entitled, "Information Compliance Confronts the Technology Tidal Wave" to the NIRMA Spring quarterly newsletter. NIRMA is the nuclear industry's leader in information management and helps to develop records management technical guidelines on managing information. The article addresses specific compliance challenges the NRC will face with the advent of newer information technologies. In order to preserve a record of its activities and decisions and to comply with the law, the NRC will regulate the deployment of agency-wide collaborative resources such as SharePoint, Tomoye Ecco, Blogs, Wikis, and mobile technology by applying standard rules and guidance such as NRC's Management Directive 3.53 "NRC Records and Document Management Program," the Federal Records Act, and the White House's Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123.

E-Discovery, Records and Information Management Conference and Expo

On March 5, 2009, staff from IRSD and the Office of the General Counsel attended an E-Discovery, Records and Information Management Conference and Expo sponsored by the Digital Government Institute. Speakers from the National Archives and Records Administration, Department of Justice, Government Accountability Office, Department of Interior, contractors, and vendors joined a U.S. District Court Judge to discuss the importance for e-discovery readiness of managing records and information across the enterprise. IRSD staff participated in a panel session entitled, "How to Get Started with E-Discovery: Keys to Effective Programs" and described the methodology used to assess the NRC's E-discovery preparedness, as well as

actions the Records and Archives Services Section is currently undertaking that will help prepare the NRC to respond to litigation and other requests for information.

Institute on Federal Library Resources Tour of the Public Document Room (PDR) and Technical Library

On March 6, 2009, staff from the Information and Records Services Division hosted a tour of the PDR and the Technical Library for the co-directors of the Institute on Federal Library Resources, in preparation for including these NRC resources as part of the Institute. The Institute is sponsored by Catholic University and in late June students from the Institute will tour the PDR and the Technical Library. This is the first year that the NRC will be included as one of the participating sites.

Notification of Approval of Final Rule

On March 6, 2009, the Information and Records Services Division received notice from the Office of Management and Budget that the final rule, "10 CFR Part 73, Power Reactor Security Requirements" has been approved.

Controlled Unclassified Information Council (CUI-C) Meeting Participation

On March 11, 2009, a staff member from IRSD participated in a meeting with representatives of the CUI-C of the National Archives and Records Administration. The meeting was sponsored by staff from the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR). The purpose of the meeting was for NSIR to provide the CUI-C information about the NRC's Safeguards Information (SGI) program and answer questions about the program. The CUI-C was seeking information about the SGI program because SGI will be grandfathered into the new CUI framework being developed by the CUI-C. The CUI-C representatives stated they were impressed with the comprehensiveness and maturity of NRC's SGI program. The IRSD staff member was invited as a courtesy because of his involvement with the CUI-C regarding Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) Requests Received During the Period of March 6, 2009 through March 12, 2009:

Office of Investigations Report 4-2007-049, Exhibits 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 28, 29, 33, 37 and 38	FOIA/PA-2009-0102
Radioactive material licenses, medical licenses, inspections, questions	FOIA/PA-2009-0103
Industrial Reactor Laboratory site, Plainsboro, New Jersey, license 29-03686-02 or 29-12944-01, records of contamination, soil data, groundwater data	FOIA/PA-2009-0104
Allegation NRR-1999-A-0059, including all correspondence between NRC and named individual	FOIA/PA-2009-0105

NRC's Federally Funded Research and Developments Center, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses specifically employee conflict of interest policy, annual research plans, budget and expenditures for FY2007	FOIA/PA-2009-0106
Correspondence from January 1, 2001, to present from Senator Byron Dorgan, Senator John McCain, Senator Tom Carper, Senator Robert Bennett, Rep. Rahm Emanuel, Senator Pete Domenici, and Senator Barack Obama	FOIA/PA-2009-0107
U.S. Code 41§253b(m)(1) proposals and responses to Federal solicitations, copy of any single such attached proposal dated January 1, 2005, or newer	FOIA/PA-2009-0108
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center citations issued for violating radiation safety procedures re: Gamma Knife radiation therapy from January 1, 2006, through present	FOIA/PA-2009-0109
TRACE V5.0, model for nucleate boiling, all records (refer to FOIA/PA-2009-0067 Response)	FOIA/PA-2009-0110
Preliminary notification reports, Part 21 reports, and event notifications, copy of all three databases	FOIA/PA-2009-0111

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Office of Human Resources (HR)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

<b>Arrivals</b>		
Glenn, Nichole	Senior Program Analyst (Business Analyst)	NRR
Hammond, Michelle	Health Physicist	RIV
Kurian, Varughese	Health Physicist	FSME
Lee, Michael	Management Analyst Trainee (CO-OP)	NRR
Liang, Chu-Yu	Senior Reactor Engineer	NRO
London, Lisa	Attorney	OGC
Patel, Amrit	General Engineer (NSPDP)	NRO
Patel, Jay	Project Manager	NRO
Vrahoretis, Susan	Attorney	OGC
<b>Departures</b>		
George, James	Geotechnical Engineer	NRO

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

OPA Received Significant Media Inquiries on the Following

Status of the license renewal application and the release of the NRC's annual assessment letter for Indian Point nuclear power plant located near New York City, New York.

Status of new reactor applications in current economic downturn.

State's review and NRC's role in the relicensing application for Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant located near Brattleboro, Vermont.

Exelon's license renewal commitments to the NRC for the Oyster Creek Nuclear plant in Toms River, New Jersey.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA provided background material to reporters attending Three Mile Island (TMI)-2's 30th Anniversary Media Presentation on March 11 at TMI. In addition, OPA arranged for the Press and Journal (a local newspaper serving central Pa.) to interview NRC's Historian about the historical significance and impact of the TMI-2 accident and the Patriot News to interview John White, Region I, about NRC's response to the TMI-2 accident.

OPA staff supported the Regulatory Information Conference in Rockville, Maryland, and coordinated several media inquires including staff interviews with a German television crew to discuss the historical TMI-2 accident, TMI-1 license renewal and the NRC's license renewal program, as well as information on upcoming new reactors.

<b>Press Releases:</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
09-043	NRC Announces Opportunity To Request Hearing on License Renewal Application for Crystal River Nuclear Plant (03/09)
09-044	NRC Meeting March 25 in Rockville, Maryland, to Discuss Proposed Revision to Research Reactor License Renewal (03/13)
09-045	NRC Announces Opportunity to Request a Hearing on Reinstating Construction Permits for Bellefonte 1 & 2 (03/13)
09-046	NRC Issues Final Safety Evaluation Report for Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Application (03/13)
09-047	NRC Issues Safety Evaluation Report for Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant License Renewal Application (03/13)

<b>Regions:</b>	
I-09-011	Firm in Buffalo, New York, To Receive \$500 Fine, Make Changes Under Settlement Agreement with NRC (03/11)
II-09-011	NRC to Discuss 2008 Performance of Farley Nuclear Power Plant (03/13)
III-09-005	NRC To Meet with XCEL Energy For Regulatory Conference on Potential Yellow Finding at Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant (3/9)
IV-09-004	NRC Issues Confirmatory Order to Mattingly Testing Services (3/12)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of the Secretary (SECY)  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 13, 2009

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-09-0039	03/06/09	Weekly Information Report – Week Ending February 27, 2009

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment, notice of meeting (03/27/2009).
2. Final rule. 10 CFR Part 63, Implementation of a Dose Standard After 10,000 Years.
3. ACRS, notice of 561<sup>st</sup> meeting (04/02-04/2009).
4. ACRS, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (04/01/2009, p.m.).
5. ACRS, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (04/01/2009).
6. ACRS, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal, notice of meeting (04/01/2009, a.m.).
7. PPL Bell Bend, LLC, Combined License Application for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant, Docket No. 52-039; Notice of Hearing, Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene, and Associated Order.

Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA)  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending March 13, 2009

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SCHEDULE, NO. 2					
OCA Contact	Date & Place	Time	Committee	Subject	Witnesses
Decker	03/10/09 366 DSOB	10:00	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Senators Bingaman / Murkowski	Pending Draft Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carl Bauer – Director, National Energy Technology Laboratory, DOE</li> <li>• Stephen Bolze – President and CEO, GE Power and Water</li> <li>• Michael Webber – Associate Director, Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Texas at Austin</li> <li>• Peter Cleick – Co-founder and President, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, Oakland, California</li> <li>• Lon House – Water and Energy Consulting</li> </ul>
Decker	03/11/09 608 DSOB	10:00	Senate Budget Committee Senators Conrad / Gregg	Fiscal 2010 Budget: Energy Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven Chu – Secretary of Energy</li> </ul>
Decker	03/11/09 253 RSOB	2:30	Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Senators Rockefeller / Hutchison	Climate Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBA</li> </ul>
Shane	03/18/09	10:00	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Senators Bingaman / Murkowski	Nuclear Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRC Chairman Dale Klein</li> </ul>
Dacus	03/24/09 TBA	10:00	Senate Environment and Public Works Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee Senators Carper / Vitter	Three Mile Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRC Commission</li> </ul>

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