
From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 10:22 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - jaczko

News

1 new result for **jaczko**

US commission: Japan's nuclear plants not stable

WCSH-TV

By Oren Dorell More than a month after a massive earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, crippling four nuclear power reactors, the situation at the power plants is still unstable, according to Gregory **Jaczko**, chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission ...
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Subject: ELIOT-Sen. Mikulski Visit

Start: Mon 4/18/2011 9:45 AM
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Organizer: OPA Resource

Categories: Eliot Meeting

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:47 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

News

3 new results for **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

NRC focused on VY safety, not shutdown

Brattleboro Reformer

By JOSH STILTS / Reformer Staff BRATTLEBORO -- Last week the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** addressed the concerns of the Safe and Green Campaign regarding the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. In a letter sent to Robert Bady, Vermont coordinator of ...

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Operators say failed valve not a threat

Times Daily

By Trevor Stokes Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant operators told federal regulators Monday that a valve in the cooling system failed because of a manufacturing deficiency and that the failed valve was never a safety threat. The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** ...

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Editorial: Keep nuclear power in mix

The Detroit News

The president also said the government would incorporate lessons learned from the crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, the Wall Street Journal reports, has stepped up inspections at the three facilities out ...

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BV/1070

From: Steve Andreadis <sandreadis@bulletinnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:48 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Bulletin News
Subject: Re: UNVIE News Clips April 5, 2011

Morning again. Thanks again for these items. We'll incorporate these into the briefing, especially the ones you've highlighted below. Have a good evening.

Steve Andreadis
Bulletin News

From: "Eliot Brenner" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: "Bulletin News" <NRC-Editors@BulletinNews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2011 4:40:42 AM
Subject: FW: UNVIE News Clips April 5, 2011

Steve: there is a significant amount of material here. I recall one other Reuters story about japan dumping water into the sea that quotes Jaczko low down. The first clip below here is pretty good, the one from AFP. These are from the US mission to ICAO.

Thank you for your assistance.

eliot

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:36 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: UNVIE News Clips April 5, 2011

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
To: Vienna UNVIE Americans - No Internet Addresses
Sent: Tue Apr 05 08:54:10 2011
Subject: UNVIE News Clips April 5, 2011

From: Wolfgang Bednarzek <vienna.usmission@gmail.com>
To: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
Sent: Tue Apr 05 08:52:52 2011
Subject: UNVIE News Clips April 5, 2011

Bu/1071

TOPICS IN BRIEF

No 'business as usual' on nuclear after Fukushima: IAEA

The world cannot take a "business as usual" approach to nuclear power in the wake of the disaster in Japan, UN atomic watchdog chief Yukiya Amano said Monday. Amano suggested however that not enough was learned from an earlier incident in Japan where another nuclear power plant was damaged in an earthquake smaller than the one that caused last month's disaster.

"Thinking retrospectively, the measures taken by the operators as a safety measure (were) not sufficient to prevent this accident," Amano told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting on the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). (AFP, Morgan, 4/4)

Govt holding radiation data back / IAEA gets info, but public doesn't

The Meteorological Agency has been withholding forecasts on dispersal of radioactive substances from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant despite making the forecasts every day, it was learned Monday. However, the agency has only been reporting the forecasts to the IAEA and not releasing them to the public at home, a fact raising public criticism. (Yomiuri, 4/5)

Japan earthquake: Radiation tests in Fukushima schools

Officials in the Fukushima region of Japan have started an emergency programme to measure radiation levels in school playgrounds. More than 1,400 schools and nurseries will be tested over two days amid anxiety among parents over leaks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. (BBC, 4/5)

Japan Dumps Toxic Water in Sea, Seeks Russian Processing Ship

The company known as Tepco will discharge 10,000 tons (2.6 million gallons) of water from a treatment building until 6 p.m. local time to make room to store more highly contaminated fluids, Hidehiko Nishiyama, Japan's main spokesman on nuclear safety, said today. Another 1,500 tons from pits outside two reactors will be drained over five days, he said. "There was no choice but to take this step to prevent highly radioactive water from spreading into the sea," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said at a media briefing in Tokyo today. "The fact that radioactive water is being deliberately dumped into the sea is very regrettable, and one we are very sorry about." (Bloomberg, Tsuzoshi Inajima, 4/5)

S.Korea tells Japan of ocean radiation fears: Report

Seoul's embassy in Tokyo on Monday conveyed concern that the dumping of radioactive water might be in breach of international laws, Yonhap news agency quoted unidentified South Korean foreign ministry officials as saying. 'It's the proximity between the two countries that makes Japan's release of radioactive water a pressing issue for us,' one official was quoted as saying. A foreign ministry spokesman declined to comment on the report. (Straits Times, 4/5)

Japan Asks Russia for Help in Disposing Radioactive Water

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Utilities: Germany now imports energy after taking nuclear power plants off the grid

Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to take some atomic power plants offline in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster means Germany is now importing power from its nuclear-reliant neighbors, an umbrella

organization of the country's utility companies said Monday. Germany now imports about 50 gigawatt hours — or the capacity equivalent of about 1 1/2 reactors — from France and the Czech Republic a day, the German Association of Energy and Water Industries said.(AP, 4/4)

Siemens' Business Surges in Iran

A year after German engineering giant Siemens AG pledged to retreat from Iran under international pressure, it is grappling with a thorny problem: a big jump in revenue in the Islamic republic. Siemens has kept a promise not to pursue new projects in Iran. But its existing contracts there underscore how international efforts to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions have had only limited impact on the state's ability to draw on the technology and expertise it needs to maintain its broader infrastructure.(WSJ, Crawford, Furhmans, 4/5)

Iran Calls On Saudi Arabia To Withdraw Troops From Bahrain

The AP (4/5, Dareini) reports Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on Saudi Arabia on Monday to pull its troops out of Bahrain. "The Saudis did an ugly thing to deploy troops...the Bahraini government also did an ugly work to kill its own people," Ahmadinejad said. His comments came a day after the Gulf Cooperation Council "condemned what it said was an Iranian attempt to aggravate sectarian tension in Bahrain." Ahmadinejad, however, "brushed aside" the GCC statement, saying, "It's evident that this statement was made under pressure from the US and its allies."

CONTENT

OPINION ANALYSIS 4

Double Deja Vu (Hart, HP) 4

Fears hit all things Japanese (CNN) 5

Radiation Is Everywhere, but How to Rate Harm? (NYT) 5

Measuring Radioactive Elements and Their Effects on Human Cells (NYT) 9

JAPAN NUCLEAR 10

Snapshop: Japan's nuclear crisis (Reuters) 10

Developments in Japan's disasters, nuclear crisis (AP) 12

No 'business as usual' on nuclear after Fukushima: IAEA (AFP) 12

Japan nuclear crisis a challenge with enormous implications for nuclear power, says IAEA (AP) 14

Govt holding radiation data back / IAEA gets info, but public doesn't (Yomiuri) 15

Japan earthquake: Radiation tests in Fukushima schools 17

Japan Dumps Toxic Water in Sea, Seeks Russian Processing Ship (Bloomberg) 17

Japanese nuclear plant spews more highly radioactive water into the sea (AP) 19

Despite Worries, Experts Suggest Damage to Marine Life Is Contained (WSJ) 20

Japanese Nuclear Plant Continues To Leak Radioactive Water Into Ocean (Makinen, Hall, LAT) 21

S.Korea tells Japan of ocean radiation fears: Report (Straits) 23

Japan Asks Russia for Help in Disposing Radioactive Water (Chosun Ilbo) 24

Japan Seeks Russian Help On Nuclear Crisis (RFE/RL) 25

Masks, radiation meters and the "Landysh" (VOR) 25

Peace of mind, livelihood gone as Japanese town withers in shadow of nuclear plant (WP) 26

Shares in Japan nuclear power plant operator TEPCO hit all-time low (AP) 30

Utilities: Germany now imports energy after taking nuclear power plants off the grid (AP) 31

IRAN 32

Siemens' Business Surges in Iran (WSJ) 32

US Pressured Gulf States Over Iran: Ahmadinejad (Davari, AFP) 35

Iran Asks Ban To Stop West "Intervention" In Region (AFP) 36



UNITED STATES MISSION TO
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA



DAILY PRESS REPORT



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

TUESDAY, APRIL 05, 2011

Questions & Comments:

Wolfgang Bednarzek



UNVIE PRESS REPORT

TOPICS IN BRIEF	2
OPINION ANALYSIS	4
Double Deja Vu (Hart, HP)	4
Fears hit all things Japanese (CNN).....	5
Radiation Is Everywhere, but How to Rate Harm? (NYT).....	5
Measuring Radioactive Elements and Their Effects on Human Cells (NYT).....	9
JAPAN NUCLEAR	10
Snapshot: Japan's nuclear crisis (Reuters)	10
Developments in Japan's disasters, nuclear crisis (AP).....	12
No 'business as usual' on nuclear after Fukushima: IAEA (AFP)	12
Japan nuclear crisis a challenge with enormous implications for nuclear power, says IAEA (AP).....	14
Govt holding radiation data back / IAEA gets info, but public doesn't (Yomiuri).....	15
Japan earthquake: Radiation tests in Fukushima schools	17
Japan Dumps Toxic Water in Sea, Seeks Russian Processing Ship (Bloomberg).....	17
Japanese nuclear plant spews more highly radioactive water into the sea (AP).....	19
Despite Worries, Experts Suggest Damage to Marine Life Is Contained (WSJ)	20
Japanese Nuclear Plant Continues To Leak Radioactive Water Into Ocean (Makinen, Hall, LAT)	21
S.Korea tells Japan of ocean radiation fears: Report (Straits)	23
Japan Asks Russia for Help in Disposing Radioactive Water (Chosun Ilbo).....	24
Japan Seeks Russian Help On Nuclear Crisis (RFE/RL).....	25
Masks, radiation meters and the "Landysh" (VOR)	25
Peace of mind, livelihood gone as Japanese town withers in shadow of nuclear plant (WP) ..	26
Shares in Japan nuclear power plant operator TEPCO hit all-time low (AP)	30
Utilities: Germany now imports energy after taking nuclear power plants off the grid (AP) ..	31
IRAN.....	32
Siemens' Business Surges in Iran (WSJ)	32
US Pressured Gulf States Over Iran: Ahmadinejad (Davari, AFP)	35
Iran Asks Ban To Stop West "Intervention" In Region (AFP).....	36

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OPINION ANALYSIS

Double Deja Vu (Hart, HP)

Huffington Post Blogs, Gary Hart

If you live long enough you often see events seem to recur. In 1979, as chair of the Nuclear Regulatory subcommittee of the Senate Environment Committee, I conducted the Senate's investigation of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, including flying in a military helicopter over the plant when, we found out later, the reactor was critical.

The subsequent investigation and hearings led to major reforms in operations and oversight of the nation's existing reactors. But it all came back with the Fukushima nuclear crisis the last few days.

Even before Fukushima, and despite the emerging consensus favoring renewed attention to nuclear power as a partial solution to global warming, no new reactor construction applications have been submitted. The problem with nuclear power is not simply one of safety. It is one more of economics. So long as we depend on OPEC oil supplies, OPEC can drop its prices and make multi-billion dollar plant investments uneconomic overnight.

In the spring of 1991, I was invited by the Libyan government in secret to negotiate an arrangement with the first Bush administration whereby the Pan Am bombers would be turned over to us in exchange for the opening of negotiations leading toward normalization of diplomatic relations. There were days of serious discussions in Geneva and then in Tripoli. It came to nothing because the Bush administration turned down the offer and we had to wait several years to finally get the bombers.

While in Tripoli for three days I spent a good deal of time with an English-speaking young minister. A high official in the Italian government told me thereafter that he was "the most

dangerous man in the world." It turned out to be Moussa Koussa, Libya's current foreign minister, who just defected to the West.

It makes one wonder what further recycling of history may occur.

Fears hit all things Japanese (CNN)

Business 360, CNN Blogs, Kevin Voigt, 4/5/11

(CNN) – In times of crisis, fears run faster than facts.

That axiom has never been truer than the aftermath of the March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, and the ongoing drama at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. And every new headline with the words "radioactive" only heighten those fears, like news that crews at the damaged plant are now dumping thousands of tons of radioactive water into the sea.

To be sure, the news is troubling and there are very real fears the nuclear fallout could get much worse. Yet as nuclear expert Michael Freeland told CNN's Anderson Cooper, the offload into the Pacific Ocean will dilute the contaminated water below levels considered harmful. Still, he adds, "this isn't best practices" in the nuclear industry.

And it's hitting products from Japan. As CNN's Kyung Lah reports, Sven Kilian, who sells Japanese toys and gadgets on JapanTrendShop.com, runs a Geiger counter over toys before exporting - even though the toys have been no where near the Fukushima nuclear plant.

CNN's Martin Savidge talked to Japanese farmers who are facing ruin not because their produce has been contaminated, but because they carry the label, "Made in Fukushima." The situation is made worse for grower because a large number of countries - including the U.S., Australia, South Korea and Taiwan - have restricted Japanese imports as a cautionary measure.

Even things simply labeled "Japanese" are taking a hit abroad. A visit to local Japanese restaurant in Hong Kong found it nearly empty on a recent Saturday night - since the nuclear disaster, people have stayed away, even though the fish, vegetables, rice and noodles and most things on the menu weren't sourced from Japan.

"This is going to be a measurable impact," William Saito, an economic advisor to the Japanese government, told CNN. "And some industries and some companies will not survive."

Posted by: CNN.com business producer, Kevin Voigt
Filed under: Japan

April 4, 2011

Radiation Is Everywhere, but How to Rate Harm? (NYT)

By DENISE GRADY

Since the first reports last month of damage to nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, the lingering question has been whether drifting plumes of radioactive elements from the

plant will harm people in Japan or other parts of the world. For many people, the biggest fear is cancer.

Certain levels of radiation exposure are known to increase the risk of cancer, but scientists disagree about the effects of very low doses of the sort that may have occurred so far in Japan.

Some researchers say it is reasonable to use data from high doses to calculate the risk of smaller and smaller doses. They argue that any exposure to radiation raises the risk of cancer, though probably by only a small amount in the case of small doses.

But others say that estimating risk for doses near zero is nonsensical, and some believe there is a threshold dose, or limit below which there is no risk from exposure.

Dr. John Boice, for example, a professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University who studies radiation effects in humans, warns that risk calculations based on tiny doses are themselves risky.

He argues that there is little data on doses below about 10 rem, but that some risk estimates nonetheless go down to a tenth of a rem or less. (He is also the scientific director of the International Epidemiology Institute in Rockville, Md., a private group that studies radiation with grants from government and industry.)

"I can take a low dose, multiply it by a million people and estimate a risk," Dr. Boice said, but he said professional groups like the Health Physics Society discourage it. "We say, don't do that. Don't multiply a tiny dose by millions and say there will be thousands of deaths. It's inappropriate, misleading and alarmist. You've gone orders of magnitude below where we have proof of any effects at all."

But Dr. David Brenner, director of the Center for Radiological Research at Columbia University, is among those who believe there is no threshold. Radiation damages DNA, he says, and just one damaged cell can become the seed of a cancer, though it takes decades to develop. He is studying the possibility that in terms of causing cancer, low doses of radiation might be more dangerous than calculations based on high doses would predict.

Current estimates by government agencies for risks from low doses rely on extrapolation from higher doses. In the United States, most government agencies use a unit called the rem to measure radiation doses. (Europe and Asia use the unit millisievert, which equals 0.1 rem.) According to the Environmental Protection Agency, people receive 0.3 rem per year from natural background radiation.

If 10,000 people are each exposed to 1 rem, in small doses over a lifetime (above the natural background exposure), according to the agency, the radiation will cause five or six excess deaths from cancer. In a group that size, about 2,000 would normally die from cancers not caused by radiation, so the extra dose would raise the total to 2,005 or 2,006.

So far only minute amounts of radioactivity from the Japanese reactors have been detected in the United States, in milk on both the East and West Coasts, and in rainfall in Massachusetts.

American officials say instruments can detect levels so vanishingly small — far below the natural background level of radiation — that they pose no threat.

In parts of Japan, radioactivity has been detected at various times in milk, meat, vegetables and tap water, on the ground and in the sea around the power plant.

Levels in tap water in certain areas have sometimes been high enough for authorities to tell people to drink bottled water, and the Japanese government has banned the shipment of milk and produce from some prefectures.

Milk from those regions has been found to contain radioactive iodine, which accumulates in the thyroid gland and can cause cancer, especially in children. Levels in the milk have exceeded those considered a cause for concern in the United States.

A quarter mile from the Fukushima plant (residents have been evacuated from a 12-mile zone around the plant) radiation levels of 0.1 rem per hour have been measured, and researchers agree that four days of such exposure would increase a person's risk of cancer. But some would argue that an even shorter exposure would raise the risk.

Many of today's risk estimates are based on a study of 200,000 people who survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. More than 40 percent are still alive.

The research has been going on for 63 years, and an article reviewing its findings was published in March in the journal *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*.

So far, it is uncertain how relevant the results from bomb survivors are to members of the public in Japan who may have been exposed to radiation from the reactors.

"One concern is trying to find out what dose these people actually received" from the Fukushima reactors, said Dr. Evan B. Douple, the first author of the article on the bomb survivors and the associate chief of research at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima, which studies the survivors and is paid for by the governments of Japan and the United States. It is the successor to the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, which was created in 1947.

Dr. Douple said the method of exposure was also different: The bomb survivors received their entire doses all at once to the full body, but exposure from the reactors may be gradual.

"Here radioisotopes are drifting in water and air, and not necessarily producing an external whole-body exposure and are being taken up in very small doses into the body," he said. "So far the information we've been receiving is that actually the doses of exposure are not what one would call intermediate or high doses, but are very low."

The bomb survivors received radiation doses ranging from negligible to high; high would be 200 rem or more, what Dr. Douple called a "barely sublethal dose." But 61,000 people were estimated to have received half a rem or less, and 28,000 received half a rem to 10 rem.

Their doses were calculated based on factors like how close they were to the center of the bomb and whether they were inside buildings. For comparison, the study also includes 26,000 people who lived in the same cities but were not exposed to radiation because they were not present during the bombings.

The researchers monitored the two groups — exposed and nonexposed — to determine whether radiation caused disease.

Radiation did increase the risk of cancer. “But the risk of cancer is quite low, lower than what the public might expect,” said Dr. Douple. He said that the researchers themselves had expected to find more cancer than they did.

Among the survivors, leukemia was the first cancer to appear. Cases increased within five years of the bombing and then began declining at the 10-year mark.

Of 120,000 survivors in one study group, 219 with radiation exposure had died of leukemia from 1950 through 2002, the latest year with published data. But only 98 of those cases, or 45 percent, were excess deaths attributed to radiation.

However, when the leukemia deaths were sorted by radiation dose, it was clear that risk increased with dose. Among people who received the highest doses (100 rem or more), 86 percent of the leukemia deaths were a result of radiation, compared with only 36 percent of the leukemia deaths in those with exposures from 10 rem to 50 rem. Among those who received half a rem to 10 rem, only 4 of 77 leukemia deaths, or 5 percent, were estimated to be excess deaths caused by radiation.

Solid tumors — affecting the colon, breast, liver, lung or other organs — took longer than leukemia to develop, Dr. Douple said.

In a study group of 100,000, there were 7,851 deaths from solid cancers among people exposed to radiation, but only 850, or 11 percent, were estimated to be excess cancer deaths due to radiation. As with leukemia, the risk increased with radiation dose. Some organs were more sensitive than others. For instance, radiation increased cancer risk in the breast, but not the prostate.

Dr. Douple emphasized that at very low doses, the risk was also very low. But he also said that there was no indication of a threshold, or a level below which acute radiation exposure would have no effect, or a smaller effect than would be predicted based on higher exposures.

Does the bomb data apply to Fukushima? Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the worst case, Dr. Douple said. It is possible to extrapolate from them to the very low-dose range detected so far, but in doing so, he said, there are “big uncertainties.”

But he added that Japanese scientists from the institute have been summoned to Tokyo, to help figure out what the potential health effects might be and to plan ways to detect and study them.

April 4, 2011

Measuring Radioactive Elements and Their Effects on Human Cells (NYT)

By DENISE GRADY

The damaged nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan have been releasing radioactive elements into the air and water around the plant. Those elements are dangerous because they are made up of atoms with unstable centers, or nuclei. Seeking greater stability, they constantly emit energy as radiation, in the form of waves like gamma rays or X-rays, and as particles smaller than atoms.

Such radiation can damage DNA and injure tissue, and the areas in the body most vulnerable to it are those with many dividing cells, like bone marrow and the digestive tract.

A very high dose to the whole body can be fatal. Smaller amounts can cause illness, burns and an increased risk of cancer. But the effects also depend on the type of radiation, whether it is internal or external and whether it involves the whole body or just part.

Several types of radiation from reactor accidents can have health effects.

ALPHA, BETA, GAMMA

Alpha particles are relatively large, but they cannot penetrate the skin, and a few sheets of paper will stop them, or even a few inches of air, so outside the body they are harmless. But if they get inside the body, from being swallowed or inhaled, they are extremely dangerous and can do extensive damage because they are relatively big and heavy, and can slam around inside cells like a bowling ball.

Beta particles are smaller than alpha particles. They do not pass through the body but can penetrate partway into the skin and cause burns. A piece of metal the thickness of a cookie sheet will stop beta particles. But if a beta-emitter gets inside the body, it can lodge in an organ and the particles can damage cells and organs from within.

Gamma rays are similar to X-rays, and can pass through the body and most materials. Gamma emitters can do harm whether they are inside or outside the body. It takes lead or several feet of concrete to stop them.

IODINE 131 and CESIUM 137

Most of the radioactive materials released from the Fukushima plant have been iodine 131 and cesium 137. Both substances emit beta particles and gamma rays. On the skin, they can cause burns, and their gamma emissions can also penetrate the body.

If a person ingests iodine 131 (milk from cows fed contaminated grass is the most common source), it is quickly taken up by the thyroid gland, particularly in children. The iodine then bombards the gland with radiation, and can cause thyroid cancer. If cesium is consumed — in

contaminated produce or meat, for instance — it is distributed throughout the body, and acts as an internal radiation source. It can increase the risk of cancer.

PLUTONIUM

The Japanese authorities say they detected very small amounts of several forms of plutonium in soil near the plant, but they said it was unclear whether it came from the reactors or was a legacy of atmospheric atomic weapons testing. Plutonium emits alpha and gamma radiation, and can cause lung cancer if it is inhaled.

HALF-LIVES

Radioactive elements are emitting energy all the time, and their existence is measured by half-life — how long it takes for half of a given amount to give off its radiation and decay into a different material. For iodine 131, the half life is short, only about eight days. But for cesium 137, it is about 30 years. A rule of thumb is that it takes ten half-lives for a substance to be essentially gone, which means less than three months for iodine 131, but 300 years for cesium 137.

Heavy contamination with cesium 137 is in large part what forced Soviet authorities to create a nearly 20-mile, uninhabitable exclusion zone around the Chernobyl reactor site.

Inside the body, these elements also have biological half-lives — how long it takes the body to eliminate them. For iodine and cesium in adults, the overall half-life is about three months, though it varies by organ, and children tend to clear the substances faster.

MEASUREMENTS

Government agencies in the United States commonly use a unit called the rem to measure radiation doses. The background dose that most people receive from natural sources is 0.3 rem per year; a dental X-ray, 0.0005 rem; mammogram, 0.002 rem; a CT scan of the spine, 0.6 rem. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, people can start getting sick with a whole-body dose of 50 rem, death becomes “possible” at 400 rem, and nearly certain at 1,000 rem or more. In the United States, a power plant worker is limited to 5 rem per year, and the federal government tells local officials to advise residents to take shelter or leave if the residents’ dose is anticipated to reach 1 rem to 5 rem.

In Europe and Asia, a unit called the sievert is more commonly used. One sievert equals 100 rem.

JAPAN NUCLEAR

Snapshot: Japan's nuclear crisis (Reuters)

4/5/11

TOKYO (Reuters) - Following are main developments after a massive earthquake and tsunami devastated northeast Japan and crippled a nuclear power station, raising the risk of an uncontrolled radiation leak.

- Japan has asked Russia to send a floating radiation treatment plant, used to decommission nuclear submarines, which will solidify contaminated liquid waste from the Fukushima Daiichi plant, Russian media reported.

- Operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) is releasing, until Friday, 11,500 tonnes of contaminated water from the plant into the sea to free up more storage space for water with much higher levels of radioactivity.

- * TEPCO said on Tuesday it has started paying "condolence money" to local governments to aid people evacuated from around its stricken plant or affected by the radiation crisis.

- Japan has warned it could take months to stop radiation leaking from the nuclear plant.

- Engineers mixed sawdust and newspapers with polymers and cement to try to seal a crack in a concrete pit at the complex's reactor no.2, where radioactive water has been seeping into the sea. TEPCO has resorted to desperate measures to contain the damage, such as using bath salts as a dye to try to locate the source of leaks at the complex 240 km (150 miles) north of Tokyo.

- Authorities do not plan to expand the evacuation zone around the stricken plant, a senior nuclear official said. The government created a 20-km (12-mile) evacuation zone around the site after the earthquake and tsunami.

- A central bank survey, underlining the concern over the impact of the crisis, showed that big manufacturers expect business conditions to worsen significantly in the next three months, though they were not quite as pessimistic as some analysts had expected.

- Radiation levels in the sea nearby stand at 4,000 times the legal limit.

- TEPCO has said it will scrap at least four reactors once they are under control, but this could take years or even decades.

- Japanese manufacturing activity slumped to a two-year low in March and posted the sharpest monthly fall on record as the quake and tsunami hit supply chains and output.

- A total of 12,087 people were confirmed dead by Japan's National Police Agency, while 15,552 are missing. A total of 167,700 households were without electricity and at least 200,000 without running water.

- Estimated cost of damage to top \$300 billion, making it the world's costliest natural disaster. The 1995 Kobe quake cost \$100 billion while Hurricane Katrina in 2005 caused \$81 billion in damage.

(Tokyo bureau; Compiled by World Desk Asia)

Developments in Japan's disasters, nuclear crisis (AP)

By Associated Press, Monday, April 4, 7:50 AM

— WHITE DYE USED TO TRACE LEAK. Engineers trying to halt a leak of radioactive water into the ocean from the tsunami-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant use a milky white bathwater additive as a dye to trace the path of a leak.

— RADIOACTIVE DUMP PLANNED. Plant operators dump 10,000 tons of radioactive water into the ocean to make room at a storage site for more highly contaminated water.

— GE CHIEF VISITS JAPAN. The chief of U.S.-based General Electric, which designed all six reactors at the plant, says during a visit to Japan that 1,000 engineers from his company and its partner Hitachi are helping to analyze problems at the plant.

— NUCLEAR POWER CONFERENCE. Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says at a nuclear power conference in Vienna the safety of such plants needs to be strengthened and the public's worries must be taken seriously.

— DEATH TOLL. The National Police Agency says the death toll from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami has risen to 12,175. It lists 15,489 people as missing.

No 'business as usual' on nuclear after Fukushima: IAEA (AFP)

By Simon Morgan (AFP) – 20 hours ago

VIENNA — The world cannot take a "business as usual" approach to nuclear power in the wake of the disaster in Japan, UN atomic watchdog chief Yukiya Amano said Monday.

Amano suggested however that not enough was learned from an earlier incident in Japan where another nuclear power plant was damaged in an earthquake smaller than the one that caused last month's disaster.

"Thinking retrospectively, the measures taken by the operators as a safety measure (were) not sufficient to prevent this accident," Amano told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting on the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS).

The CNS is a treaty -- currently with 72 signatory countries -- drawn up after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster to ensure the safety of the world's atomic reactors.

Amano said the crisis in Japan caused by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami "has enormous implications for nuclear power and confronts all of us with a major challenge."

"We cannot take a 'business as usual' approach," he said.

The ageing Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 250 kilometres (155 miles) northeast of Tokyo, was hit by a 14-metre (46-foot) tsunami on March 11, triggering the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

It is not the first such incident in quake-prone Japan: in 2007, the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant was also damaged in an earthquake.

"That earthquake was much smaller than this one. And this time, the earthquake was followed by a huge tsunami," Amano said.

"I believe there are certainly ways to avoid the repetition of such an accident and for that purpose we are now thinking collectively and that is why we are preparing a ministerial meeting to launch the process."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is to host the conference with its 151 member states from June 20 to 24 to discuss lessons to be learned from the Fukushima disaster.

Li Ganjie of China's National Nuclear Safety Administration agreed that the Fukushima incident "has left an impact on global nuclear power development and has become a major event in nuclear history."

It had triggered "heated discussion on whether we should develop nuclear power."

IAEA chief Amano said that while the immediate priority at Fukushima "is to overcome the crisis and stabilise the reactors ... we must also begin the process of reflection and evaluation."

"The worries of millions of people throughout the world about whether nuclear energy is safe must be taken seriously," he said.

The Vienna-based IAEA, set up in 1957, is responsible for drawing up international safety standards for nuclear power plants, even if it has no powers to legally enforce those standards.

It has already dispatched expert teams to help monitor radiation release from the damaged reactors and sent two reactor experts to the plant to get first-hand information.

Amano said "more needs to be done to strengthen the safety of nuclear power plants so that the risk of a future accident is significantly reduced."

Many countries are reviewing their plans to set up nuclear power programmes in the wake of the Fukushima disaster.

But Amano insisted that the basic drivers behind the interest in nuclear power -- which included rising global energy demand, concerns about climate change, volatile fossil fuel prices and energy security -- "have not changed as a result of Fukushima."

He said he was "confident that valuable lessons will be learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident which will result in substantial improvements in nuclear operating safety, regulation and the overall safety culture."

Japan nuclear crisis a challenge with enormous implications for nuclear power, says IAEA (AP)

By Associated Press, Monday, April , 11:56 AM

VIENNA — The Japanese reactor crisis poses a major challenge with enormous implications for nuclear power, the head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog said Monday as he appeared to criticize the operator of the crippled complex at the heart of the catastrophe.

Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, also stressed that the global community cannot take a "business as usual approach." Lessons must to be learned from what happened at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant after it was hit by a massive tsunami and earthquake on March 11 and has been releasing radiation into the environment ever since, he said.

Amano spoke at the opening session of a meeting that has drawn representatives from dozens of countries to scrutinize safety at each other's power plants.

"I know you will agree with me that the crisis at Fukushima Dai-ichi has enormous implications for nuclear power and confronts all of us with a major challenge," Amano told delegates. "We cannot take a business as usual approach."

The worries of millions of people around the world about the safety of nuclear energy "must be taken seriously," Amano said, and called for transparency and "rigorous adherence to the most robust international safety standards."

"It is clear that more needs to be done to strengthen the safety of nuclear power plants so that the risk of a future accident is significantly reduced," he said.

Speaking to reporters later, Amano appeared to criticize Fukushima's utility, the Tokyo Electric Power Co., for not learning lessons from 2007 earthquake-related incidents at the Kashiwazaki Kariwa power plant, another facility it runs. Until now, that was one of Japan's worst nuclear accidents that led to at least 8 deaths. The incidents there included fires and leaks of radioactive water.

"Thinking retrospectively, the measures taken by the operators as a safety measure was not sufficient to prevent this accident," Amano said when asked if the Fukushima catastrophe could have been avoided.

Last month, Japan's nuclear safety agency criticized TEPCO for failing to inspect critical equipment such as 33 pieces of machinery parts crucial to the cooling systems needed to keep Fukushima's six nuclear reactors from overheating.

Previously, TEPCO had skipped 117 inspections at Kashiwazaki.

Amano said the IAEA would like to send an international expert mission to Japan as soon as possible to carry out an assessment of the accident.

He also said that in the future international nuclear experts should be in touch with each other faster after incidents like these.

"I am confident that valuable lessons will be learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident, which will result in substantial improvements in nuclear operating safety, regulation and the overall safety culture," Amano said.

Amano's comments were seconded by Li Ganjie of China's National Nuclear Safety Administration, who is presiding over the meeting that has drawn representatives from countries around the world. The gathering runs through April 14 and began with a moment of silence for victims of the Japanese disaster.

"Needless to say, the Fukushima accident has left an impact on global nuclear power development and has become a major event in nuclear history," Li said through a translator. "It stands testimony to the notion that nuclear safety is the lifeline and key to nuclear power and nuclear safety knows no boundaries."

The meeting, hosted by the Vienna-based IAEA, centers on the Convention on Nuclear Safety that came into being in the wake of the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents.

Adopted in 1994, it commits states party to it to submit reports on the safety of their civil nuclear facilities for review by their counterparts at gatherings held every three years. The idea is that questioning and peer pressure will keep countries on their toes. All countries with operating nuclear power plants are parties to the treaty.

The peer review process should be strengthened, Amano told reporters.

"In hind-thought, it was not sufficient," he said.

A separate side meeting focused specifically on the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant is scheduled for Monday evening.

Govt holding radiation data back / IAEA gets info, but public doesn't (Yomiuri)

The Yomiuri Shimbun, 4/5/11

The Meteorological Agency has been withholding forecasts on dispersal of radioactive substances from the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant despite making the forecasts every day, it was learned Monday.

Meteorological institutions in some European countries such as Germany and Norway have been publishing their own radiation dispersal forecasts on their Web sites based on their own meteorological observations.

Nuclear experts at home and abroad are criticizing the Japanese government for not releasing its own forecasts, raising new questions about the government's handling of information on the nuclear crisis.

The agency is making daily forecasts at the request of the International Atomic Energy Agency. When contamination by radioactive substances across national borders is feared, weather organizations of the member nations cooperate to make forecasts on possible migration of the substances.

The Meteorological Agency has been calculating its forecasts on the migration once or twice every day since March 11, when the great earthquake hit the Tohoku and Kanto regions.

The agency inputs observation data sent from the IAEA--such as the time when radioactive substances are first released, the duration of the release and how high the substances reach--into the agency's supercomputer, adding the agency's observation data, including wind directions and other data. The supercomputer then calculates the direction in which the radioactive substances will go and how much they will spread.

However, the agency has only been reporting the forecasts to the IAEA and not releasing them to the public at home.

The IAEA analyzes the data from Japan by adding observation data from other countries it similarly asked for cooperation, such as China and Russia, and notifies nuclear authorities of countries, including Japan, of the results.

Whether to announce the IAEA analysis is left to each government's judgment. The Japanese government's Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters has so far not released the IAEA analysis.

"Japan has its own Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry- operated System for Prediction of Environmental Emergency Dose Information (SPEEDI) for dispersal forecasts. The government in its Basic Disaster Management Plan defines forecasts by SPEEDI as official forecasts," a Meteorological Agency official explained.

"We don't know whether the IAEA basic data the agency uses for the forecasts really fit the actual situation. If the government releases two different sets of data, it may cause disorder in the society."

However, the SPEEDI forecast was announced only once, on March 23. The Nuclear Safety Commission has been refusing to announce subsequent forecasts. "We can't do it because the accuracy is still low," Seiji Shiroya, a commission member said.

(Apr. 5, 2011)

Japan earthquake: Radiation tests in Fukushima schools

BBC News, 4/5/11

The tests will take two days to complete

Officials in the Fukushima region of Japan have started an emergency programme to measure radiation levels in school playgrounds.

More than 1,400 schools and nurseries will be tested over two days amid anxiety among parents over leaks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The plant was crippled by last month's earthquake and tsunami.

Officials say there should be no risk to children if they keep outside a 30-km (19-mile) exclusion zone.

Workers at the plant have begun dumping water with low levels of contamination into the sea to free up room to store more highly radioactive water leaking at the site.

About 11,500 tonnes of water will be released.

The official death toll from the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami which struck north-east Japan on 11 March stands at 12,157, with nearly 15,500 people still unaccounted for.

More than 80% of the victims have been identified and their bodies returned to their families.

A three-day joint operation by the Japanese and US militaries to find the missing recovered 78 bodies.

More than 161,000 people from quake-ravaged areas are living in evacuation centres, officials say.

Japan Dumps Toxic Water in Sea, Seeks Russian Processing Ship (Bloomberg)

4/5/11

By Tsuyoshi Inajima - Apr 5, 2011 Tokyo Electric Power Co. is pumping millions of gallons of radioactive water into the sea from its crippled Fukushima Dai-Ichi station, and Japan has asked Russia to send a ship capable of processing nuclear waste.

The company known as Tepco will discharge 10,000 tons (2.6 million gallons) of water from a treatment building until 6 p.m. local time to make room to store more highly contaminated fluids, Hidehiko Nishiyama, Japan's main spokesman on nuclear safety, said today. Another 1,500 tons from pits outside two reactors will be drained over five days, he said.

"There was no choice but to take this step to prevent highly radioactive water from spreading into the sea," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said at a media briefing in Tokyo today.

“The fact that radioactive water is being deliberately dumped into the sea is very regrettable, and one we are very sorry about.”

High radiation levels have hindered efforts to restart cooling pumps that were knocked out 25 days ago after Japan was struck by its strongest earthquake on record and a tsunami, triggering the world’s worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl. Tepco today shares fell to the lowest since listing in August 1951, and slumped 83 percent since the disaster.

Russian Ship

Japan’s government asked Russia for help processing radioactive waste from the Fukushima Dai-ichi station, and is specifically interested in the Landysh facility, used to dismantle nuclear submarines, Sergei Novikov, a spokesman for Russia’s state-run Rosatom Corp., said in Moscow yesterday.

Landysh is a radioactive waste treatment plant housed on a barge and was built with Japanese assistance, according to information on the website of The Nuclear Threat Initiative, a non-profit group that opposes atomic weapons proliferation.

The stock plunged 17 percent to 367 yen as of 2:08 p.m. on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Tepco fell as much as 18 percent to 363 yen earlier.

“The news of the discharge of contaminated water was negatively received while there is no sign for the situation to settle down,” said Satoshi Yuzaki, Tokyo-based head of the market information department at Takagi Securities Co.

Tepco has delayed its full-year earnings report as it assesses the financial impact of the earthquake, the company said in a faxed statement today, without setting a date.

Result of ‘Errors’

The United Nations nuclear watchdog said yesterday that the partial meltdown of some of the station’s six reactors was the result of “errors” from the time the March 11 quake and tsunami knocked out pumps used to cool reactors and spent fuel.

“Such an accident should not have happened,” Denis Flory, deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said at a press briefing in Vienna. “Something was not done from the very beginning.”

Tepco began discharging yesterday 11,500 tons of water with low radiation levels, enough to fill 4 1/2 Olympic-sized swimming pools, after obtaining government approval.

A fishing industry group in Fukushima prefecture has asked Tepco to stop releasing toxic water into the sea near the power plant, NHK reported on its website. Radioactive iodine and cesium were found in fish caught off the coast of Ibaraki, north of Tokyo, the Yomiuri newspaper reported, citing a local fishery cooperative. The catch isn’t on the market because fishing was discontinued after the earthquake, the report said.

No Environmental Problem

The contaminated water is unlikely to harm the environment as it will be diluted in the sea, and releasing the liquid will help Tepco retain more harmful materials at the station, said Brendan Kennedy, a member of the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering Inc. and a professor of chemistry at the University of Sydney.

"I don't think this dumping of the low-level waste that's going on now is any great environmental problem," Kennedy said on Bloomberg Television's "First Up" with Susan Li. "What they've got to not dump is more heavily radiated waste material," he said. "You don't want to release that into the ocean."

The potential additional radiation dose to a person eating seaweed or seafood caught near the plant every day for a year would be 0.6 millisievert, the IAEA said in a statement. That compares to 0.85 millisievert from a year of exposure to granite that comprises the U.S. Capitol, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Seawater Radiation

Radioactive iodine in seawater near the plant was 630 times the regulatory limit, Tepco said in a statement. The sample was taken 330 meters south of where the water was discharged.

The company released the information after being ordered by Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency to reevaluate radiation data after publishing errors.

Specialists from sensor manufacturers will follow procedures used by other utilities to determine the radioactivity of air in the plant, the spilled water, and the ocean nearby, the company said in a statement on its website.

Tepco had been struggling to stop contaminated water from reactor No. 2 from leaking into the ocean through a conduit used to take in seawater.

The company first tried to plug a crack in a power-cable storage pit near the reactor by filling it with concrete on April 2, and subsequently attempted to clog it with a mix of sawdust, newspaper and absorbent polymer used in baby diapers.

The utility plans to build an undersea silt barrier to stop the leak of radioactive fluids and help contain toxic water within the conduit, Nishiyama, deputy director-general of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Agency said yesterday.

To contact the reporter on this story: Tsuyoshi Inajima in Tokyo at tinajima@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Amit Prakash at aprakash1@bloomberg.net

Japanese nuclear plant spews more highly radioactive water into the sea (AP)

By Associated Press, Tuesday, April , 1:49 AM

TOKYO — The operator of a tsunami-disabled nuclear plant says radiation measuring several million times the legal limit has leaked into the sea over the past few days.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Tuesday that samples taken from seawater near one of the reactors contained 7.5 million times the legal limit for radioactive iodine on April 2. Two days later, that figure dropped to 5 million.

The readings were taken closer than before to where tainted water has leaked, and did not necessarily reflect a worsening of recent contamination. Other measurements several hundred yards (meters) farther away from the plant have declined, to levels about 1,000 times the legal limit.

Experts have said radiation dissipates quickly in ocean, but that it's unclear what effects of large amounts of contamination will be.

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HEALTH INDUSTRY APRIL 5, 2011.

Despite Worries, Experts Suggest Damage to Marine Life Is Contained (WSJ)

By GAUTAM NAIK

The release of radioactive water is a growing threat to Japan's immediate marine environment, where local seaweed and shellfish in particular can absorb radiation and introduce it into the food chain. But unless far greater quantities are released over the very long term, the danger is likely to be low and mainly confined to the area near the leak, marine experts say.

The water that the troubled Fukushima plant began releasing on Monday has radioactive iodine-131 contamination that is around 100 times more than Japan's limit, and cesium-134 and cesium-137 of some 50-70 times. However, more dangerous water leaking from the plant is at 10,000 times the safe limits for these contaminants.

Scientists say the marine area around the Fukushima plant will likely be contaminated for several years, but the size and currents of the Pacific Ocean will disperse the radioactivity to minute, harmless levels farther from shore. Iodine's radioactivity fades relatively quickly. It has a half-life of eight days, which means that the radioactivity halves every eight days.

.When released in the ocean, radioactive iodine tends to get absorbed by seaweed and local plants. "Seaweed is like a sponge to iodine," said Simon Boxall, an expert on marine pollution and dispersion at the University of Southampton in England. But, he added, "as long as you don't eat the local seaweed, you're safe." It isn't clear if seaweed is harvested or farmed in the area around the crippled nuclear plant.

Cesium 137 is a much bigger worry. With a half-life of 30 years, it accumulates in ocean sediment. Shellfish live on the sea floor, accumulating and concentrating the cesium in their bodies.

"We're talking about a few generations" before the radioactivity of cesium in the marine environment fades, Dr. Boxall said.

Fisheries aren't operating in the 20-kilometer exclusion zone around the Fukushima plant. But if marine radioactivity levels increase, they would probably need to extend the zone, he added.

The risks from cesium should fade more quickly with larger, swimming fish than with shellfish, say U.S. experts.

"The cesium 137 is water soluble and it will be diluted out of the fish flesh, once the input has stopped," said radiation ecologist Timothy Mousseau at the University of South Carolina, who studied the impact on wildlife of fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Depending on the size of the fish, it could take weeks or months for the radioactivity to subside.

While the leak at Japan's Fukushima plant and the struggle to get the situation under control make it uncertain how worrisome the effects will be, controlled release of low-radiation nuclear waste has precedents. For example, the controversial Sellafield nuclear plant on England's northwest coast released nuclear waste with low-level radiation into the Irish Sea for decades.

Critics have long attacked that practice, but a recent report on Sellafield suggested the overall long-term health risk to people from such discharges may be low.

The Sellafield plant began releasing nuclear waste into the Irish Sea in the early 1950s.

In 2009, the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, an independent public body, published data from a study of how people living in the area of the contamination were exposed to the Sellafield discharges. Cesium 137 accounted for most of the radiation dosage, acquired mostly through consumption of fish and shellfish.

The dose to the most exposed individuals—oyster and mussel farmers—proved to be low, about 0.04% of the annual dose limit of 1,000 microsieverts for people involved in "practices involving controllable sources of radiation."

The average annual dose to a person in Ireland from all sources of radioactivity was 3,950 microsieverts, the report added.

"The data presented in this report confirm that while the levels of artificial radioactivity in the Irish environment are detectable, they are low," the report concluded. "They do not pose a significant risk to the human health of the Irish population."

—Robert Lee Hotz contributed to this article.
Write to Gautam Naik at gautam.naik@wsj.com

Japanese Nuclear Plant Continues To Leak Radioactive Water Into Ocean (Makinen, Hall, LAT)

Monday, April 4, 2011

Los Angeles Times

By Julie Makinen And Kenji Hall

Radioactive water continued to seep into the sea Monday after a failed attempt to seal the leak at the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant using an absorbent polymer, sawdust and shredded paper.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials think the leak has been coming from an 8-inch crack in the concrete pit holding power cables near reactor No. 2. On Monday, Tepco said it would use a dye to try to trace the path of the leak, Kyodo News reported. Radiation levels in the pit water are an estimated 1,000 millisieverts per hour, a high but not immediately lethal dose.

Engineers also planned to begin injecting nitrogen gas into reactors No. 1, 2 and 3 in an attempt to prevent possible explosions from the buildup of hydrogen gas. Explosions at the three reactors in the first four days after the magnitude 9 earthquake and accompanying tsunami March 11 badly damaged the reactor buildings and disabled the cooling pumps that provided water to the reactors. Government officials say it may take months to fully restore the cooling systems.

Japan's official death toll from the disaster topped 12,000 on Sunday, as about 25,000 U.S. and Japanese troops finished an intensive three-day recovery effort. The search located 78 bodies, but more than 15,000 people are still officially listed as missing. About 160,000 survivors remain in shelters.

Japan's Red Cross and the Central Community Chest of Japan have collected more than \$1 billion but have yet to distribute any cash directly to victims, prompting Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano to urge Sunday that the process be accelerated.

A Red Cross spokeswoman, Miyoko Kawamura, responded that the payments would likely start this month.

Edano also said that the government would have independent experts retest the soil around the Fukushima nuclear plant to reevaluate whether current evacuation orders should be modified. The government has told residents living within 12 miles of the plant to evacuate, and has urged those living within 18 miles to leave or at least stay indoors as much as possible.

The government has come under renewed pressure from groups, including Greenpeace, to expand its evacuation area, but at the same time, residents who vacated the 12-mile zone have been seeking permission to return briefly to their homes to gather personal items. Officials in recent days have not shown signs of moving in either direction, and Edano said Sunday the current order will last "a long time," though he conceded it was "tough on residents."

Edano added that the government had checked the thyroid function of 900 children up to age 15 in two villages, Iitate and Kawamata, just outside the 18-mile perimeter and none showed signs of exposure to high radiation levels. High levels of radiation have been detected in the water and on grass in Iitate. Edano said it was the third time that the government had conducted tests on children in areas just outside the 18-mile zone.

The Red Cross has sent more than 200 emergency relief teams to the disaster zone and organized thousands of volunteers to assist victims. But no displaced people have yet received cash payments from the pot of more than \$1 billion collected by the Japanese Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Central Community Chest of Japan.

In past disasters in Japan, independent panels in each prefecture have determined who gets such aid and how much. Edano suggested that this time, the process must be streamlined.

"Normally donations are disbursed through local governments that rely on independent committees to decide on the conditions for dividing up the money," Edano said. "But this time, the central government has a role to play in setting up an independent committee" that will figure out how to split up donations.

Tomohide Atsumi, president of the Nippon Volunteer Network Active in Disaster, said the Red Cross has "a policy of equity and places a high value on equality, and it takes times to assess damages."

In contrast, he said, donations to nonprofit groups often get spent immediately. Atsumi said his organization used funds collected right after the disaster to buy underwear and other supplies for evacuees and to charter a bus for volunteers to help victims in the northeast.

Overall, he said, Japan is still learning how to strike the right balance between order and a more free-form approach in its disaster relief efforts. An overemphasis on organization and top-down decision making, he said, probably prevented more volunteers from going to the disaster zone more quickly.

"The drive to be organized is very strong in our society... but people are not good at socially improvising," he said. "I like to use the metaphor of classical music vs. jazz. Our traditional disaster response is like classical music — there's a conductor, a big orchestra, a fancy hall. Disaster relief should be more like jazz — you can do something with one trumpeter, one drummer. You don't need a whole orchestra."

As the disaster zone has become more accessible, experts are learning more about the size and force of the massive tsunami.

A group of researchers led by Yoshinobu Tsuji of Tokyo University's Earthquake Research Institute has been studying the tsunami-hit area around Miyako, in Iwate prefecture. They found evidence that the waves could have been as high as 124 feet, according to public broadcaster NHK. That would make them the tallest waves to hit Japan's northeastern shore since 1896, when the tsunami waves recorded at Ofunato were 125 feet high.

"This tsunami was comparable to the [1896] tsunami — and it might have been bigger," Tsuji said.

Apr 5, 2011

S.Korea tells Japan of ocean radiation fears: Report (Straits)

Straits Times

SEOUL - SOUTH Korea has expressed concern to Japan about its pumping of radioactive water into the ocean to help stabilise a crippled nuclear plant, a report said on Tuesday.

Japan on Monday started to dump more than 10,000 tons of low-level radioactive water into the Pacific to make space for run-off from water used to douse overheating fuel rods at its Fukushima plant.

A massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11 shut down cooling systems at Fukushima, causing fuel rods to overheat dangerously.

Seoul's embassy in Tokyo on Monday conveyed concern that the dumping of radioactive water might be in breach of international laws, Yonhap news agency quoted unidentified South Korean foreign ministry officials as saying.

'It's the proximity between the two countries that makes Japan's release of radioactive water a pressing issue for us,' one official was quoted as saying. A foreign ministry spokesman declined to comment on the report.

'For now, we have no clear standards to determine how much is how bad for us,' another foreign ministry official told Yonhap. 'We're working with scientific and legal experts to come up with a clear guideline.'

Japan Asks Russia for Help in Disposing Radioactive Water (Chosun Ilbo)

4/5/11

Japan has asked Russia to send a special radiation treatment vessel to help dispose of contaminated water from a Japanese nuclear power plant crippled by last month's massive earthquake and tsunami.

A spokesman for Russia's state-controlled nuclear agency, Rosatom, said Monday Russian officials are considering the request.

The Russian vessel treats radioactive liquids as part of the decommissioning of nuclear submarines. It was built in a joint venture between Russia and Japan.

Also Monday, operators of Japan's crippled Fukushima plant began releasing more than 10,000 tons of contaminated water into the ocean to make room in their storage tanks for water even more radioactive, marking the latest effort to bring overheating reactors at the plant under control.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said the step is "unavoidable" to ensure safety. He said the water to be released is much less radioactive than the water that will be pumped into the storage tanks, mainly from the Fukushima plant's No. 2 reactor.

Officials have recorded levels of radioactivity thousands of times higher than the legal limit in waters near the Fukushima plant, where cooling systems for all six reactors were knocked out by a massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11. Repair crews have identified the probable cause for the leak as a crack in a storage pit near the No. 2 reactor.

Repeated efforts have failed to stop the leak. The Tokyo Electric Power Company tried Sunday to seal the crack in the pit with a mixture of sawdust, shredded newspaper and a plastic polymer that is supposed to expand to several times its size when it hardens. However, there was no noticeable reduction in the radiation level in the ocean.

On Monday, TEPCO began pouring a liquid dye into the water in hopes of tracing the leak. Officials said they will try again to cut off the flow once they determine its path.

The top UN atomic energy official said Monday the ongoing disaster at the Fukushima plant has led to global concerns about the safety of nuclear energy. Yukiya Amano said maintaining robust safety standards and transparency are crucial to restoring confidence in the sector.

General Electric's Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Immelt, whose company designed the Fukushima plant, said Monday that 1,000 engineers from GE and its partner, Hitachi, are working to help mitigate the disaster.

The nuclear crisis has distracted attention from the enormous job of helping survivors from the March 11 quake and tsunami, which washed away whole towns and villages along Japan's northeastern coast. More than 12,100 people have been confirmed dead and more than 15,400 are reported as missing.

Almost 160,000 people are living in temporary shelters..

April 04, 2011

Japan Seeks Russian Help On Nuclear Crisis (RFE/RL)

Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty

Japan has asked Russia to send a floating treatment plant used to decommission nuclear submarines to help Japan contain radiation from the earthquake- and tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear power complex.

A spokesman for the Russian nuclear agency Rosatom, Sergei Novikov, said Moscow was considering the request.

The vessel, called the "Landysh," is reported capable of treating radioactive liquid with chemicals and storing it in a cement form.

The vessel was reportedly built with Japanese funds to help dispose of liquid nuclear waste from decommissioned submarines.

The request was disclosed as workers at the Fukushima plant have begun pumping contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean in order to free storage space for even more highly radioactive water.

Since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, workers have been struggling to stabilize the Fukushima plant, which has leaked substantial amounts of radiation into the air, soil and sea in the area.

Masks, radiation meters and the "Landysh" (VOR)

The Voice of Russia, 4/4/11

Russia is increasing assistance to earthquake-hit Japan. Today the Rosatom agency sent a large batch of facemasks and individual radiation meters to the crippled Fukushima-1 NPP and in the near future Japan will be provided with a liquid radioactive waste treatment plant to reprocess

radioactive water inside the NPP. Part of the polluted water has already been drained into the ocean. Authorities keep assuring the public that the water is not dangerous, while its content of poisonous substances exceeds the maximum safety limit a hundredfold.

After Russian rescue teams returned from sorting out building rubble and searching for survivors, Russia has sent a cargo shipment for Japanese disaster fighters at the Fukushima-1 NPP. The first airplane with facemasks and 400 individual radiation meters is already on its way to Japan. At present, talks are under way on sending the "Landysh" plant, which is meant for treating liquid radioactive waste and until now has been used for the disposal of nuclear submarines at the Zvezda factory on the Primorye Territory, Sergey Novikov, an official spokesman for Rosatom, told "The Voice of Russia".

"We are in a position to send this plant to Japan now. Our Japanese colleagues asked for the parameters of the plant to understand how effectively they can use it. If our answers satisfy them we will spare no effort to transfer the floating plant to the area of the Fukushima NPP in the shortest possible time."

The earthquake-stricken Fukushima-1 needs this plant badly. The tanks of the NPP are filled with radioactive water and no one knows what to do with it. There is more water inside the damaged compartments of the NPP. In this situation the authorities have taken a difficult decision to pour 11,500 tons of polluted water from the pools of the fifth and sixth reactors into the ocean. The concentration of poisonous substances in it, especially iodine, exceeds the maximum safety level a hundredfold. However, the Japanese government, quoting experts, assures that there is no danger to human health. Nikolay Kukharkin, a director's adviser from the National Research Centre "The Kurchatov Institute", also calls to refrain from panic:

"Iodine is not that bad. It is only bad at the first moments of discharge from nuclear power plants when large quantities of it are emitted. Afterwards iodine disintegrates, its half-life is not very long, only several hours. It is not dangerous in water. Caesium and plutonium are worse but their quantity is smaller."

At the moment, Fukushima-1 engineers are hastily looking for the places that radioactive water is leaking from in the first and second reactors. A special colourfast solution has been sprayed at the plant to detect the holes. Apart from that, in the next few days experts will start installing special floating barriers in the bay around the NPP. These underwater barriers are meant to prevent radioactive particles from escaping into the ocean.

Peace of mind, livelihood gone as Japanese town withers in shadow of nuclear plant (WP)

By Andrew Higgins, Monday, April , 11:12 PM
Washington Post

MINAMI SOMA, Japan — The clockwork rhythms of Motoo and Mineko Okubo's dairy farm halted one by one.

A shiny silver truck that collected their milk each day at dawn stopped coming. Then their newspapers didn't get delivered; the local post office didn't open and a vet who helped keep their 60 cows healthy disappeared.

For decades, fear of contamination radiating from Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant had been a nagging but abstract anxiety. In just a few hours, it had become their terrifying reality.

But as neighbors fled and schools, banks, shops, a library and a nearby clinic closed, the Okubos decided to stay. "We couldn't just throw everything away," said Mineko Okubo, donning a face-mask as she prepared to go outside — something the government has advised people so close to Fukushima Daiichi not to do — to milk their cows.

Though just outside a mandatory 12-mile mandatory evacuation zone, the Okubos' farm is only 15 miles from the radiation-belching power station. Anyone living so close, Japanese authorities decreed on March 14, should "stay indoors" to avoid potentially hazardous exposure to the air.

"Stay indoors? What do they mean 'Stay indoors'?" fumed Motoo Okubo, recalling his dismay at an order that trampled on the habits and duties of a lifetime. "What am I supposed to do about my cows? They're all outside and I have to feed them."

Authorities last week revised their position and urged all those still in the "stay indoors" zone to consider "voluntary evacuation." The reason, they said, was not increased radiation risk but a shortage of food and other supplies.

Though largely unscathed by a gigantic earthquake on March 11 and a tsunami that followed — the Okubos' only casualty was a shrine in the living room that fell over — they now struggle with a threat they can't see and barely understand. Invisible isotopes leaking from the six-reactor nuclear complex just down the coast have left the couple and their 40-year-old son Masahiko living in a virtual ghost town.

The danger may or may not be grave, but one thing is certain: Confusing and often contradictory announcements by jittery officials in Tokyo and shifty obfuscation by Tokyo Electric Power Co. executives have already stripped the Okubos of their livelihood, their peace of mind and the fruit of decades of labor.

Confusing data on risks

Of Minami Soma's pre-quake population of about 70,000, more than 50,000 have left. Once well-lighted, immaculately clean streets are now dark, dirty and mostly empty of traffic except for emergency vehicles and Self-Defense Force trucks and jeeps.

"Nobody wants to come here now," said Sadayasu Abe, a senior official in the local government. His own house is in the compulsory evacuation zone, so he sleeps in his office, which is slightly farther away from Fukushima Daiichi. He's sent his wife and children away.

Radiation data released daily by the regional government, however, show just how difficult it is to work out who is and who isn't at risk. Fukushima City, the regional capital, is much farther from Fukushima Daiichi than Minami Soma but has far higher radiation readings. The level of hazard depends not just on distance but a host of often inscrutable factors such as local topography and wind patterns.

Official Japanese data, said Jan van de Putte, the leader of a radiation monitoring team sent by Greenpeace International, shows "no inconsistencies" but raises "a lot of questions" about where danger lurks. Greenpeace wants mandatory evacuations extended. The U.S. government last month urged its citizens in Japan to stay at least 50 miles away from the plant, four times the distance suggested by Japanese officials.

Although most houses in Minami Soma are now empty and dark, City Hall still blazes with light and bustles with bureaucrats in face masks. The corridors are heaped with emergency supplies. The windows are sealed shut.

Even the local tax office is hard at work: It put off a March 15 deadline for income tax filings "due to the situation" and now processes requests for "disaster victim certificates." Tax chief Koichi Ishikawa said he's anxious about radiation but more worried that, with so many residents now gone and so many businesses shut, Minami Soma might never recover from its trauma.

"I wonder if this city can exist in the future," said Ishikawa.

Cut off by rings on a map

When the Okubos first moved here to Japan's northeastern coast from Tokyo in 1967 they embarked on what seemed a rural idyll. They built a house at the end of a tranquil country lane dotted with plum trees, bought four cows and started a family.

Shortly after the birth of Masahiko, their first child, a sinister but still remote cloud settled over a majestic landscape bounded by the Pacific Ocean on one side and cedar-covered mountains on the other: Tokyo Electric opened a nuclear power station just six miles down the coast from the southern end of Minami Soma.

Tokyo Electric and government officials "kept saying, 'It's safe. It's safe,' but from the start I was concerned," recalled Mineko Okubo. The plant was built to generate electricity for the Japanese capital, and she "wondered why, if it was so safe, they didn't build it in the suburbs of Tokyo."

Today, she knows why. Although many in Tokyo, more than 150 miles from Fukushima Daiichi, fret about radiation, their life goes on much as before while Minami Soma withers away.

Minami Soma's misery began with the tsunami, which killed at least 327 locals and left 1,147 people missing, but much of its current desolation is due to a seemingly harmless map broadcast repeatedly by Japanese television: It features a series of concentric circles around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, each one a marker for a different level of potential radiation danger.

“Everybody could see we were on the map,” said Motoo Okubo. Truck drivers and even relief workers balked at visiting. A golf-club maker, a leather goods manufacturer and a big electronics company all pulled staff.

The mayor of Minami Soma, his domain largely cut off from the rest of Japan, made a desperate video appeal and had it posted on the Web: “We are left isolated,” said Katsunobu Sakurai. “Residents are being forced into starvation. ... I beg you to help us.”

Food has now begun to trickle in and fuel tanker drivers who had refused to enter town now sometimes come in to make deliveries.

As alarm spread in the early days after the disaster, a car with a loudspeaker appeared outside the Okubos’ farm announcing an urgent meeting at the Ishigami No. 1 Elementary School. Mineko Okubo went along and returned home with disturbing news: Buses would be leaving early the next morning to take residents to safety hundreds of miles away.

Why, the family wondered, were buses needed if all they had to do was stay indoors. “We had a family meeting to decide what to do,” said Motoo Okubo. He argued against abandoning their animals. His 66-year-old wife agreed.

Routine made futile

Seeking comfort in familiar routines, the couple, helped by their son, milk their cows twice a day just as before. Mineko Okubo wears a face-mask, but not her husband or son.

The exercise is laborious, and futile: Nobody will touch their milk now. The collection truck hasn’t been round since March 13. The family drinks a few glasses a day and offers hot milk to rare visitors, who decline their hospitality.

The rest gurgles down a drain outside the cowshed.

The waste is relieved by a small, grim consolation: starved of feed because the farm no longer gets the supplies it needs, the Okubos’ cows produce only half as much milk a day as they did before.

The farm, which made a million yen profit last year, now earns nothing — and devours the Okubo’s energy and remaining resources.

Their herd of 35 wagyu — cows for Japanese beef — still needs to be fed, but can’t be sold because of a ban on possibly contaminated animals going to market. Each cow used to be worth over \$7,000 at livestock market in Sendai, a big city to the north, but “they are now worthless,” said Motoo Okubo.

Killing the cows would save money on feed but, he said, that is not an option: “Where would we bury them all?” Rigid Japanese rules require that each dead cow be inspected for disease and

then sent for cremation in a distant city. Trucks that used to cart away dead animals no longer visit Minami Soma.

Fearful that drinking tap water may be hazardous, the Okubos now rely on water drawn from a well, which they hope is deep enough to avoid contamination, a concern that jumped sharply Saturday when the government announced that highly radioactive water is leaking from Fukushima-Daiichi.

With only themselves and old habits for solace, the Okubos get up at dawn to tend to their animals, just as they've done since 1967, defying a danger they can't see when they venture outside. Three cows have given birth. And, so far at least, the Okubos are healthy: a recent radiation screening declared them clean.

"Our whole life is outside looking after cows," said Mineko Okubo. "I will do that until I die."

Shares in Japan nuclear power plant operator TEPCO hit all-time low (AP)

By Associated Press, Monday, April 5, 11:48 PM

TOKYO — Shares in the operator of Japan's tsunami-wrecked nuclear power plant hit an all-time low Tuesday amid growing doubts about its ability to contain the radiation leak disaster.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc., known as TEPCO, dropped 51 yen, or 12 percent, to 391 yen (\$4.6) in the morning session, falling below the stock's all-time closing low of 393 yen from December 1951.

TEPCO's coastal Fukushima plant has been leaking radiation since a March 11 quake and tsunami knocked out crucial cooling systems for its nuclear reactors, leading to explosions and fires. The company is now struggling to contain radioactive water leaks.

Since the quake, TEPCO's share price has nosedived a staggering 80 percent.

"Investors are continuing to sell TEPCO shares due to uncertainty over the nuclear crisis. Especially, yesterday's move to dump radioactive water into the ocean unnerved investors," said Kazuhiro Takahashi, equity analyst at Daiwa SMBC Securities Co. Ltd.

TEPCO said Monday it would release low-level radioactive water from its crippled nuclear power complex to make room for the storage of more highly radioactive water that has been hampering efforts to stabilize the reactors.

TEPCO is likely be saddled with massive compensation claims that some analysts estimate at several trillion yen.

The company said Tuesday it would postpone the release of its annual earnings report, scheduled on April 28, due to the ongoing radiation crisis. It declined to give further details.

Utilities: Germany now imports energy after taking nuclear power plants off the grid (AP)

By Associated Press, Monday, April , 11:16 AM

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to take some atomic power plants offline in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster means Germany is now importing power from its nuclear-reliant neighbors, an umbrella organization of the country's utility companies said Monday.

Germany now imports about 50 gigawatt hours — or the capacity equivalent of about 1 1/2 reactors — from France and the Czech Republic a day, the German Association of Energy and Water Industries said.

Electricity imports from France — which relies on nuclear energy for almost 80 percent of its power supply — doubled from the first to the second half of March, the group said. Exports to the Netherlands and Switzerland, in turn, almost entirely ceased.

Merkel's government announced the shut down of nuclear power plants built before 1980 — seven of the country's 17 reactors — only four days after Japan's March 11 earthquake and tsunami hit the Fukushima Dai-Chi nuclear facility.

Germany is normally a net exporter of energy, but nine of the country's 17 reactors were offline at the end of March due to the closures and maintenance.

Nuclear power has been very unpopular in Germany ever since radioactivity from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster drifted across the country. Germany has decided to phase out the technology over the next 25 years, gradually supplanting atomic energy with other sources.

Merkel has emphasized that shuttering Germany's reactors must be timed so that the country doesn't simply end up importing nuclear power from its neighbors, where safety standards might not be better. She has also said moving away from nuclear energy must not lead to an increase of Germany's carbon emissions.

On Monday, the chancellor said in the wake of the changes implemented after Fukushima, a new comprehensive road map for Germany's energy future without nuclear power "toward the era of renewable energies" will be finished by mid-June. She said it would also address the issues of how to meet Germany's ambitious "climate targets and the import of electricity."

ENTSO-E, the Brussels-based group overseeing Europe's electricity grid and tracking cross-border flows, confirmed that Germany turned from exporting to importing electricity toward the end of March.

"From our preliminary data, we can deduct an average net import of electricity between March 19 and April 3 of about 1.8 gigawatt during any one hour, which implies an average import per day of 43 gigawatt hours," said ENTO-E's secretary general, Konstantin Staschus.

Environment Ministry spokeswoman Christiane Schwarte, however, said the country is still self-sufficient even without the seven nuclear power plants, and the imports only reflect normal fluctuation within the European grid system.

Germany currently gets some 23 percent of its electricity from nuclear power, 17 percent of from renewable energies, 13 percent from natural gas and more than 40 percent from coal.

The Environment Ministry maintains that in 10 years renewable energy will contribute 40 percent of the country's overall electricity production.

A center-left government a decade ago penned a plan to abandon the technology for good by 2021, but Merkel's government last year amended it to extend the plants' lifetime by an average of 12 years. The government has now performed a U-turn and put that plan on hold in the wake of Japan's nuclear crisis.

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IRAN

EUROPE BUSINESS NEWS APRIL 5, 2011.

Siemens' Business Surges in Iran (WSJ)

Company Weighs Its Contracts Against Risks of Working in a Sanctioned State

By DAVID CRAWFORD And VANESSA FUHRMANS

BERLIN—A year after German engineering giant Siemens AG pledged to retreat from Iran under international pressure, it is grappling with a thorny problem: a big jump in revenue in the Islamic republic.

Siemens has kept a promise not to pursue new projects in Iran. But its existing contracts there underscore how international efforts to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions have had only limited impact on the state's ability to draw on the technology and expertise it needs to maintain its broader infrastructure.

The company's Iranian business also shows how Tehran depends on a powerful tool to maintain its commercial ties to foreign companies. The rules that govern international commerce make it tough for Siemens to sever ties with Iran even if it wanted to.

"Otherwise we could be accused of breaching contracts and face compensatory damages," Siemens CEO Peter Löscher said at the company's shareholder meeting in January.

[View Full Image](#)

[Getty Images](#)

A sign displayed before a Siemens meeting in January reads 'Siemens: No aid for the torturing regime Iran!'

The U.S. State Department and the European Union declined to comment on Siemens' business in Iran.

In Siemens' last fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, the company's revenue in Iran rose more than 20% to about €680 million (\$967 million) from the year before and more than 50% over a two-year period, said people familiar with the matter. Revenue for this year is still unclear.

Siemens hasn't violated any sanctions imposed by the U.S. and EU aimed at crippling Iran's nuclear program and the country's development of new oil and gas revenue. Its ongoing business in Iran stems from ongoing contracts from years past.

Until it ceased bidding for new orders last year, Siemens vigorously pursued and won billions of dollars in long-term contracts in Iran. In 2006, for example, Siemens won a €294 million deal to supply 150 locomotives for Iran's railways and several multimillion-euro orders the following two years for gas turbines and compressors to power-plant producers.

An assessment by Siemens lawyers put the potential legal penalties for terminating its existing contracts in Iran at up to €4 billion—if tried before a Swiss arbitration court, as many Siemens contracts in Iran specify, a person familiar with the matter said.

Siemens' decision to continue to fulfill those contracts, though, threatens to complicate the German firm's U.S. business. Over two decades of expansion, the U.S. has become Siemens' largest single market and accounted for one-fifth of its global sales of \$103 billion in its fiscal 2010. Much of this revenue come from large, well-publicized government contracts, such as a \$466 million deal struck last October with Amtrak to supply the government-owned rail operator 70 electric locomotives.

Siemens isn't alone in its quandary. Other multinationals whose own governments allow them to pursue business in Iran worry about the threat to their U.S. interests, legal experts say.

"It's a significant issue for some of those companies now deciding to withdraw from Iran," said David Lorello, a partner in international law firm Steptoe & Johnson who specializes in anticorruption and trade compliance. He noted that companies that have helped supply Iran's oil and power industry may face years of outstanding contractual obligations.

Other German blue-chip firms such as Thyssen-Krupp AG and Linde AG also have announced plans over the past year to pull out of Iran and wind down contracts there as soon as possible, as political pressure at home and abroad has mounted. But a complete withdrawal could take time.

Other European firms, such as Swiss engineering group ABB Ltd., Italian oil and gas company Eni SpA and oilfield-services giant Schlumberger Ltd. have also halted new business, but are still fulfilling old contracts. Schlumberger, which has bases in Houston, Paris and the Hague, said it wouldn't finish its outstanding Iran contracts until 2013.

Some U.S. companies also have lingering business ties in Iran via foreign subsidiaries. Honeywell International Inc., a diversified manufacturer with big aerospace and defense contracting activities, said it committed to stop accepting new Iranian projects last year. "We will complete existing work that was undertaken under pre-existing contracts only to the extent authorized under the new [2010 U.S. sanctions] law," it said.

The EU sanctions are the bloc's toughest yet, but they still allow for broad areas of trade with Iran. Even in sanctioning oil and gas-related business, they permit existing contracts.

The new U.S. sanctions, which come on top of an already broad trade embargo and other sanctions, widen the federal government's powers to penalize foreign companies or entities of U.S. companies that do business in Iran. But they, too, grant some exceptions to prior contracts.

The Iranian government's crackdown on protesters following the country's mid-2009 elections prompted Siemens to consider severing its 140-year-old ties to the country, some Siemens officials said. Among multinationals, Siemens came under particular fire when it emerged that its venture with Nokia Corp. had provided Iran with part of the telecommunications technology that the government subsequently used to monitor protesting citizens.

The Nokia Siemens venture said at the time the technology in question was standard in telecommunications networks in most countries. Shortly after, a political firestorm in the U.S. erupted when Siemens emerged as a potential contender for a Los Angeles public transportation contract. It didn't end up bidding. By then, the decision to begin scaling back in Iran "was clear," a Siemens management board member said.

How to implement the withdrawal triggered a spirited debate among Siemens managers, the people familiar with the matter say. Company lawyers drew up a list of existing contracts, including those that might be terminated without risk of penalty. Some executives argued that breaking any contract would violate Siemens' compliance code or damage its credibility in other political hotspots. "In the United States, it's not a sin to break a contract," a senior Siemens official said. But "in Europe, that's culturally not accepted."

Siemens management settled on a compromise at an October 2009 board meeting: to cease new business in Iran, but not until July 2010, when the last of the legally binding bids it had already submitted had expired, and still honor outstanding agreements.

At the same time, Siemens has prohibited paying bonuses based on sales in Iran and is considering other incentive options to help reduce sales there.

Eager to protect the engineering group's \$20 billion in annual U.S. revenue, Siemens executives have been working behind the scenes to minimize the potential damage the company's outstanding Iranian orders could do to Siemens' reputation in Washington, the people familiar with the matter said.

Last year, Siemens tried unsuccessfully to have language inserted into EU sanctions against Iran that might have allowed it to cancel at least some Iranian contracts without penalty, company officials say.

As its lobbyists made the rounds with officials in Brussels and Washington to explain its issue, senior Siemens executives said most were sympathetic to the argument that fulfilling the outstanding contracts was preferable to paying Iranian entities billions of euros in damages. It is a sentiment that multinational lobbyists and lawyers say State Department officials have echoed in other meetings.

Yet, even with no new orders coming in, Siemens revenue from Iran rose sharply over the first half of 2010, and an alarmed Mr. Löscher ordered an audit to find out whether local managers were pumping up sales under existing contracts. The audit found no such activity, the people close to the matter said.

Write to David Crawford at david.crawford@wsj.com and Vanessa Fuhrmans at vanessa.fuhrmans@wsj.com

US Pressured Gulf States Over Iran: Ahmadinejad (Davari, AFP)

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

AFP

By Mohammad Davari

TEHRAN (AFP) – The United States and its allies pressured Gulf Arab states to accuse Iran of interfering in the region, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Monday and also demanded Saudi forces leave Bahrain.

Gulf Arab states on Sunday expressed concern at "Iranian meddling" in Bahrain and Kuwait, but Ahmadinejad told reporters in Tehran: "This statement was issued under pressure from America and its allies. It does not bear any legal value."

The hardline Iranian president also said that Saudi-led forces brought into Bahrain amid protests by the Shiite majority in the kingdom should leave.

"It is hideous that troops have been brought in," Ahmadinejad said. "Take them out. The people have demands so listen to them."

Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in a statement issued after a Sunday meeting in Riyadh, said they were "deeply worried about continuing Iranian meddling."

Ahmadinejad said the Gulf Arab monarchies must "not fall into the trap of the Americans," and should boost their ties with Tehran instead.

"We have extended the hand of friendship... do not fall into the American trap, all should be alert," Ahmadinejad said at a news conference broadcast live on state television.

Pointing the finger at Tehran's regional arch-foe Israel, he said: "Their (the West's) intention in interfering in the region is to save the Zionist regime."

He reiterated: "Rest assured, there will soon be a new Middle East without the Zionist regime, without the US presence and their lackeys."

The GCC -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- accused Shiite Iran of plotting against the security of its Sunni monarchies and of fanning confessional discord.

Tehran was "violating the sovereignty" of members of the regional grouping, it said on Sunday.

Reacting earlier on Monday, Kazem Jalali, spokesman for the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission, said the Gulf states would be better advised to address the grievances of their own peoples as anti-regime protests sweep the Arab world.

"Iran will never interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbours," he was quoted as saying by the official news agency IRNA.

The GCC countries had "better reconsider their own actions" rather than issuing "emotional statements."

The Arab monarchies "are aware that their dependency on America and their cowardly behaviour towards the Zionist regime is a form of humiliation that they are imposing on their own people," Jalali said.

Iran's foreign ministry on Sunday said the tension between Tehran and its Arab neighbours was the result of a "Western and Zionist conspiracy" aimed at "sowing discord between Islamic countries."

Acrimony between Iran and the Gulf Arab states was exacerbated by a Kuwait announcement on Thursday that it was expelling an unspecified number of Iranian diplomats for alleged links to a spy ring working for Tehran.

Ahmadinejad denied that Iran had any link to the cell.

"It is clear that (this allegation) has no meaning. What is this spying in Kuwait all about? What does Kuwait have that we spy on it?" Ahmadinejad asked at the news conference.

"If it is (about) its people, well its people are our friends and we are the friend of its people. If it is (about) its government, then we are friends with its government and it is our friend," he said.

Ahmadinejad also said that Iran was not "interfering" in Syria, as pro-democracy protests sweep the country.

"The government of Syria is our very good friend and it is the resistance's forefront. So are the people of Syria... the Zionists cannot see the Syrian people and government in peace... the government and the people of Syria can solve their issue through dialogue," he added.

Iran Asks Ban To Stop West "Intervention" In Region (AFP)

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

AFP

TEHRAN (AFP) -- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a telephone conversation has asked the UN chief to stop US and Europe "intervention" in the region, the website of his office reported on Monday.

"The intervention of some European countries and America in the regional nations increases concern and makes circumstances more complicated," Ahmadinejad was quoted as telling UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The website said the Iranian president told the UN secretary general to prevent "catastrophes" as occurred in Afghanistan and Iraq happening in the region.

"The time has come for the secretary general of the United Nations to play the historical and decisive role in solving the existing issues based on dialogue and understanding so the catastrophes which occurred in Afghanistan and Iraq do not happen again," Ahmadinejad said.

"The double standard action of the Western countries in Bahrain and Libya and their silence towards the atrocities of the Zionist regime against the innocent Palestinians shows their contradictory performance in the world."

The hardliner's call came a day after Tehran blamed rising tensions between the Islamic republic and Gulf Arab states on a "Western and Zionist conspiracy."

"Sowing discord between Islamic countries, especially between Iran and the countries of the region, is a Western and Zionist conspiracy," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said on Sunday, according to state media.

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From: Steve Andreadis <sandreadis@bulletinnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:32 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Bulletin News
Subject: Re: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Good evening Mr. Brenner.

Thank you for pointing out this link. It will be included in today's briefing. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do for you.

Steve Andreadis
Bulletin News

From: "Eliot Brenner" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: "Bulletin News" <NRC-Editors@BulletinNews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2011 4:28:33 AM
Subject: FW: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Fyi if you do not have.

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:26 AM
To: Davies, Glyn T; Wood, Robert A; Scheland, Mark DL; Shaffer, Mark R; Cooper, Nathan J; Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; Brenner, Eliot; Clark, Jeanne L; Schlachter, Mark M; Cooper, Kurtis A; Wong, Yvette M; Milich, Daniel S; Connor, Julie G; Cook, Nerissa J; Nossel, Suzanne F
Subject: Fw: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Jennifer Hall Godfrey <jennyg1973@yahoo.com>
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Sent: Tue Apr 05 10:19:32 2011
Subject: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

VIENNA, April 4 (Reuters) - Nuclear power plants in the United States and Europe are safe, regulators said on Monday, promising to look at ways to strengthen safety further in the wake of Japan's atomic disaster.

BV/1072

Japan is battling to stabilise a nuclear power plant after a huge earthquake and tsunami devastated it three weeks ago. Radioactivity from the stricken site has contaminated land, air and sea and forced a review of atomic power plans worldwide.

"Back in the United States, because of similarities in the design and because of the possibility for natural disasters of this type in the United States, we ask questions about our own facilities and our own approach to regulation," U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko said.

"Let me say firmly that we believe right now plants in the United States are safe. We believe we have a very strong programme in place to ensure that safety," he told reporters.

He was making his remarks after the opening of a two-week conference of nuclear regulators from 72 countries in Vienna hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Although scheduled before the earthquake, the conference to review the 1996 Convention on Nuclear Safety is focusing on the need to strengthen measures in light of Japan's emergency.

European leaders want to subject reactors to "stress tests" to guard against crises like the one at the Fukushima plant. Some countries have raised the possibility of closing any of Europe's 143 reactors that fail them.

Andrej Stritar, head of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) which is helping to prepare the tests, said the tests would not ask whether Europe's nuclear power plants were safe.

"That is maybe how these stress tests are misunderstood ... The proper question is, how do we make them even safer? So they are safe today, because otherwise they wouldn't be licensed, they wouldn't be allowed to operate."

(Reporting by Sylvia Westall and Fredrik Dahl; Editing by Louise Ireland)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:26 AM
To: 'Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov'
Subject: Re: Runng late

Look forward to seeing clips. Haven't seen reuters yet.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>

To: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>; Brenner, Eliot

Sent: Tue Apr 05 02:21:54 2011

Subject: Runng late

Sorry am running late for 8:15 del mtg. Saw the reuters piece this morning with good headline, and good quotes from jaczko.

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:39 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Blogs

1 new result for Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ANS Q&A on Radiation & Fukushima | ANS Nuclear Cafe

By [ansnuclearcafe](#)

U.S. citizens located within 50 miles of the plant site were initially advised by the United States **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** to leave the area for the time being. In an appearance before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee on March 30, NRC ...

[ANS Nuclear Cafe - http://ansnuclearcafe.org/](http://ansnuclearcafe.org/)

Tip: Use a minus sign (-) in front of terms in your query that you want to exclude. [Learn more.](#)

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:10 AM
To: Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan; Coggins, Angela
Cc: Pace, Patti
Subject: RE: Friday interview?

From: Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:42 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan; Coggins, Angela
Cc: Pace, Patti
Subject: Fw: Friday interview?

This is a yes, right?

Joshua C. Batkin
Chief of Staff
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko
(301) 415-1820

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
To: Batkin, Joshua
Cc: Jaczko, Gregory
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:53:45 2011
Subject: Friday interview?

Hi Josh:

I'm the primary editorial writer at the Times dealing with nuclear issues. I believe we've actually talked in the past on some nuclear issue that was ripe for comment.

In the wake of the Japanese nuclear plant accident, it seems clear that I will need to follow the nuclear safety issue in this country and abroad closely for the foreseeable future. I'm wondering if it would be feasible for me to interview Mr. Jaczko and you or other appropriate staff members for, say, half an hour on this coming Friday, April 8th. The interview would be on background, would seek your views on the key issues to keep my eye on, and mostly just let you size me up for future reference. I'm hoping to establish enough mutual confidence that I can bounce questions off of Mr. Jaczko and you and get background replies as key issues arise. I've done that with mutually satisfactory results on health care reform issues, mostly because key officials recognize that I'm not looking for breaking news or direct quotes but rather for guidance on how to interpret information that is publicly available.

I'll be making a similar request of other commission members and their chiefs of staff.

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

Bu/1075

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - jaczko

News

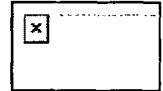
2 new results for jaczko

With Nuclear Power, Overconfidence is Deadly

Treehugger

On Wednesday, Gregory **Jaczko**, the chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, testified before a Senate subcommittee about the nuclear crisis in Japan. He assured the committee of "our continuing confidence in the safety of the US commercial ...

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[Treehugger](#)

Feinstein Urges U.S. Review of Nuclear Waste Amid Japan Crisis

Bloomberg

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory **Jaczko** told lawmakers waste storage may be examined in the review ordered by the president. Spent-fuel pools are "very robust structures" that can safely store waste for 100 years, **Jaczko** told Feinstein, ...

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Bu/1076

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:28 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Medina, Veronika; Janbergs, Holly
Subject: FW: CNN Request

This is probably OBE, but I just saw this buried in my e-mails. I can call her tomorrow to tell her "no" but we'll put her name on the list (unless it is already there).

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
--- Protecting People and the Environment
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: CNN Request

Just received a call from Marcella Salazar, with CNN. Looking for interview with the Chairman. Please call her at (b)(6). Thanks.

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

BU/1077

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:21 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Monday, April 4, 2011:

In This E-Mail

House Democrats voice opposition to EPA restrictions

Feds call on industry to repair aging pipelines

Obama to talk energy at Indianapolis plant

US official decries exec bonus in Gulf oil spill

Tests performed on Gulf fail-safe device defended

No drilling deal with BP, Salazar says

Upper Big Branch Mine explosion response marked by confusion

Emails show rampant conflicts among BP managers before Macondo blowout

Low natural gas prices, recession slow wind energy

Tepco to release radioactive water into ocean

Libyan oil city of Brega at center of continued fighting

Conservative group's model bill adopted by state EPA foes

Transocean backtracks on claim about 2010 safety

Daybook: Upcoming events

House Democrats voice opposition to EPA restrictions

By Edward Felker

BV/1078

A group of 155 House Democrats on Monday signaled its opposition to Republican attempts to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's air pollution agenda, a move intended to sway moderates and President Barack Obama as budget talks intensify.

In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, the Democratic lawmakers urged him to resist what they called an ongoing "attack" on the Clean Air Act. "We ask you to oppose efforts to undermine this landmark law," they said.

The letter, organized by Energy and Commerce ranking Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., follows the introduction last week of a resolution by 34 Senate Democrats in support of the EPA's use of the Clean Air Act to impose new pollution regulations.

The twin actions, coming in the heat of budget negotiations, indicated Republicans lack the votes needed to override a veto of legislation prohibiting EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions, said Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch.

"Both (Senate Majority Leader) Harry Reid and these Democrats are sending a strong message to the White House that they want the president to stand firm and not give in to any anti-environmental budget riders," he added.

A ban on EPA climate authority that was included in the Republicans' 2011 budget bill, and other controversial provisions, are the subject of backroom negotiations to head off a partial government shutdown this Friday.

Environmental groups and liberal lawmakers have been rallying to stop any legislation that handcuffs the agency's implementation of the Clean Air Act, which they consider a pillar of environmental and health law.

The House Democrats' letter defends the EPA's use of its Supreme Court-mandated climate authority to set higher auto mileage targets. "Indeed, EPA has already wisely used this authority to implement one national automobile standard to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions," they wrote.

The House was expected to pass its version of the EPA greenhouse gas prohibition bill by Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich. as soon as Tuesday. But the outlook was unclear for EPA budget provisions and for a companion Senate bill. Republicans have been trying to attach that legislation to a Senate small business bill.

Reid said Monday that talks continue on the small business bill and he might have more information for Democratic senators at their weekly caucus lunch on Tuesday.

On the budget bill, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Obama had invited congressional leaders from both parties to the White House on Tuesday

for a face-to-face meeting, but gave no indication that a deal was imminent.

Feds call on industry to repair aging pipelines

By Michael Rubinkam

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Federal transportation officials demanded Monday that pipeline companies speed up efforts to repair and replace aging oil and gas lines, saying recent deadly explosions in Pennsylvania and California highlight the urgent need for safety improvements.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced plans to strengthen oversight of companies that operate a 2.5 million-mile network of pipelines that deliver oil and gas to the nation's homes and businesses. LaHood toured the ruins of a Feb. 9 pipeline explosion in Allentown that destroyed a block of row houses and killed five people, including an elderly couple and a 4-month-old boy.

"People shouldn't have to worry, when they flip a light switch in their kitchen, that it could cause an explosion in the front yard," LaHood said. "People should have absolute confidence they can turn on the heat, the stove or a computer without endangering their families and neighbors."

Although the number of pipeline-related accidents resulting in serious injury or death has been cut nearly in half over the past two decades, LaHood said, the Allentown blast and other recent catastrophic explosions showed that pipeline companies need to do more.

Last September, a 44-year-old gas transmission line ruptured in San Bruno, Calif., killing eight people, injuring dozens and leaving 55 homes uninhabitable. Investigators said the pipe had flawed welds. And in Philadelphia in January, a gas main explosion sent a 50-foot fireball into the sky, killing a utility worker, injuring six people and forcing dozens from their homes.

Gas companies are already legally required to check pipeline integrity in highly populated areas and make repairs where necessary, but LaHood has asked executives at major pipeline companies to make it a priority.

Some pipelines in Allentown are more than 120 years old. Reading-based UGI Utilities Corp., which operates 79 miles of cast-iron pipeline in Allentown and about 300 miles across its system, has said that it could take four decades at the current pace to replace those pipes.

But UGI Vice President Robert Beard told a state Senate panel last month that the explosion could accelerate the utility's efforts.

Antonio Arroyo, 43, who lost his home in the blast, said UGI needs to go faster.

"This place is a minefield until it gets replaced," said Arroyo, who appeared at

Monday's news conference with LaHood.

Michelle Hall, 40, whose husband's parents were killed in the explosion, said the empty lot where a row of homes once stood should be reason enough for utilities to act.

"That plot of land wasn't always vacant. There were eight houses, with families living in them, families who are now completely devastated," she said. "That vast empty space — that is why there should be pipeline regulation."

The Transportation Department also plans new regulations to strengthen reporting and inspection requirements and make information about pipelines and the safety records of operators easily accessible to the public.

The department also seeks legislation to enhance oversight of pipeline safety — including an increase in civil penalties for violations from a maximum of \$100,000 per day to \$250,000 per day and from \$1 million to \$2.5 million for a series of violations — and has asked for funding for 40 more inspectors.

Don Santa, the president and CEO of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, said his group's members were committed to pipeline safety and looking forward to working with the department.

"Last month, we formally adopted a set of five guiding principles for pipeline safety, including a goal of zero incidents — a perfect record of safety and reliability for the national pipeline system," he said in a statement. "These guiding principles stemmed from a recently formed INGAA board level pipeline safety task force, which is charged with looking at ways to improve the industry's safety performance and restore public confidence in the natural gas pipeline infrastructure."

Industry leaders, state officials and others will meet April 18 in Washington to discuss ways to improve the nation's pipeline infrastructure.

Obama to talk energy at Indianapolis plant

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama plans to visit an Indianapolis transmission plant that produces systems for hybrid vehicles as part of his push for reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

The White House said Obama will tour a plant operated by Allison Transmission in Indianapolis on Friday. Last week, the president outlined his goals of increasing domestic oil exploration and production, making cars and trucks more energy efficient and building vehicles that run on alternative fuels or electricity.

The company says that buses equipped with its hybrid equipment have saved an estimated 15 million gallons of fuel since 2003. Its transmissions are used in a wide range of vehicles, including trucks, buses, off-road and military vehicles.

Obama broke the GOP string of victories in Indiana in 2008, winning the state.

US official decries exec bonus in Gulf oil spill

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The company that gave executive bonuses for safety after its Gulf of Mexico rig exploded a year ago, killing 11 and causing the largest offshore spill in U.S. history, “just doesn’t get it,” the head of a U.S. presidential commission investigating the spill said Monday.

Transocean Ltd’s executive bonuses underscore the commission’s finding that lax standards caused the accident that dumped more than 200 million gallons of oil into the gulf, William Reilly said.

Reilly and his co-chair, former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, joined U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar on Monday for talks with Mexican officials on uniform regulations for drilling in the gulf.

Transocean gave bonuses for the “best year in safety performance in our company’s history,” according to a regulatory filing last week.

“What I’ve seen from various investigative reports is that they were at least at some fault,” Salazar said in a news conference, adding that 2010 “was probably the greatest year of pain in terms of development of deep-water gas and oil in the world, especially in the Gulf of Mexico.”

The commission appointed by President Barack Obama has said the explosion was caused by a series of time- and money-saving decisions by Transocean, BP and oil services company Halliburton Inc.

Ihab Toma, Transocean’s executive vice president, said some of the wording in the 2010 proxy statement “may have been insensitive in light of the incident that claimed the lives of 11 exceptional men.”

“We deeply regret any pain that it may have caused,” Toma said in a statement.

Salazar said the U.S. team is in Mexico to share its findings from the spill as part of discussions with Mexican government officials and oil industry leaders to develop common standards and protocols for exploring and drilling in the Gulf.

“The Gulf of Mexico in terms of its natural state is one body of water,” Graham said. “What happens in one country will have an effect on others.”

Responding to a reporter's question, Graham said he hopes Cuba, which also plans to explore for oil in its territorial waters of the Gulf, would adhere to whatever standards are developed. The U.S. team noted that Cuba is working with Spanish oil company Repsol and Russia's Gazprom Neft.

"In Florida there is great concern about the prospect of drilling so close to our coast by a country that hasn't engaged in this previously," said Graham, who represented Florida in the Senate. "That's part of what we're talking about with Mexico, that a Gulf of Mexico agreement would be adhered to by any country. We're optimistic that it will occur."

Tests performed on Gulf fail-safe device defended

By Harry Weber

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — An investigator who examined the safety device that failed to prevent last year's BP oil spill said Monday his firm did not skip critical tests under pressure to meet a deadline to file a report on what caused the contraption not to work.

Neil Thompson, a Det Norske Veritas vice president, told a federal investigative panel that tests that were removed would not have affected the determination of why the blowout preventer failed.

DNV's March 23 report concluded the device failed because of faulty design and a bent piece of pipe.

"We don't believe that conclusion would change," Thompson said.

The report appears to shift some blame for the disaster away from the oil giant and toward those who built and maintained the 300-ton safety device. It was built by Cameron and maintained by Transocean.

At least one outside expert has said the findings cast serious doubt on the reliability of all other blowout preventers used by the drilling industry.

BP and the U.S. Chemical Safety Board argue more testing should have been done before conclusions were reached. Cameron argues backup data should have been given to the parties when the report was filed.

Documents emerged early in the probe showing that a part of the device had a hydraulic leak, which would have reduced its effectiveness. There were also concerns raised about batteries in the control pods used with the blowout preventer and a "deadman" trigger that is supposed to activate the device when power to the rig is lost.

Gary Kenney, the lead investigator assigned by DNV to handle the blowout preventer analysis, testified Monday that testing showed low battery function in

one of the control pods and inconsistent power function to operate a component of the other control pod. But he said those issues were dismissed as primary contributing factors to the blowout preventer failure.

Kenney acknowledged that not all of the functions of the blowout preventer stack were tested.

Under intense cross-examination from a Cameron attorney, Thompson acknowledged that a final DNV computer model of where the pipe was believed to have lodged inside the blowout preventer was not completely accurate. He also acknowledged he has no operational experience on a drilling rig and had never laid eyes on a blowout preventer before being asked to participate in testing the device used with BP's Macondo well.

Among other things, Thompson said DNV did not consider whether any damage to the side sealing packers on the blowout preventer may have contributed to the device's failure.

The blowout preventer report by the Norwegian firm DNV was not the final word on the Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 workers and led to more than 200 million gallons of oil spewing from a BP well a mile beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

Monday's testimony came during the seventh round of hearings before the joint U.S. Coast Guard-Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement investigative panel, which is looking into the causes of the April 20, 2010, rig explosion and oil spill off Louisiana. The panel expects to release some preliminary findings a few days before the anniversary of the disaster later this month.

Also Monday, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., urged the Chemical Safety Board and BOEMRE to examine whether the length of time Transocean's workers were on the rig at the time of the explosion contributed to the disaster.

They said documents they have been provided indicate that Transocean shifted from a 14-day-in-a-row rig worker schedule to a 21-day-in-a-row schedule in the months before the explosion. The members of Congress said they were told this was partially a cost-saving measure.

Neither of the federal agencies would comment. Transocean said in a statement that the 21-day schedule benefits employees and the company through continuity of operations, reduced crew travel and longer on-shore intervals that allow for more comprehensive training.

No drilling deal with BP, Salazar says

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar denied a report that the Interior Department was set to approve BP's plan to resume drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, CBS News reports.

[Read more](#)

Reuters reports that Salazar said the report was based on a "misconception" about the permitting process.

[Read more](#)

Upper Big Branch Mine explosion response marked by confusion

Massey Energy could not quickly determine who was underground or where they were when the Upper Big Branch Mine exploded a year ago, NPR reports.

[Read more](#)

Greenwire reports that a federal appellate court appeared lenient toward Massey Energy's argument that the government should have considered its request to conduct its own investigation.

[Read more](#)

Emails show rampant conflicts among BP managers before Macondo blowout

The BP team overseeing the Macondo well had numerous conflicts over management and operations before last year's accident, according to emails reviewed by the Houston Chronicle.

[Read more](#)

Low natural gas prices, recession slow wind energy

Wind power is facing tough times as the economic recession and low natural gas prices have reduced demand for new U.S. installations, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Tepco to release radioactive water into ocean

Tepco said it will release 11,000 tons of radioactive water into the ocean to make room for the capture of more highly-radioactive water from its stricken Fukushima nuclear station, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Libyan oil city of Brega at center of continued fighting

Rebels fought against Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi near the oil port city of Brega as Italy formally recognized the opposition and oil continued to hover at the highest prices since 2008, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Conservative group's model bill adopted by state EPA foes

Model legislation opposing greenhouse gas regulations, written by the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, has already been adopted in eight states and is being considered in 10 others, ClimateWire reports.

[Read more](#)

Transocean backtracks on claim about 2010 safety

Transocean says it regrets calling 2010 its best year in terms of safety performance in a recent securities filing, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 5, Washington: House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing on BLM, Forest Service energy and minerals programs 2012 budgets. BLM Dir. Abbey, Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management Dir. Ferguson to testify. 10:00 am, Longworth 1324.
- Apr. 5, Washington: House Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing, "Creating Abundant Water and Power Supplies and Job Growth by Restoring Common Sense to Federal Regulations." 2:00 pm, Longworth 1324.
- Apr. 5, Washington: The EPA holds a hearing on its proposal to delay greenhouse gas regulations on biomass power sources for three years. 2:30 pm, EPA, 1310 L St., N.W., Room 152-154.
- Apr. 5, Washington: House Rules Committee meets to consider amendments to H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act, in advance of floor debate. 3:00 pm, Capitol H-313.
- Apr. 5, Washington: SAIS forum, "Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami: Dimensions of the Disaster and Future Prospects." Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki to speak. 6:30 pm, 1740 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.

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www.energyguardian.net

You can e-mail us at energy@washingtonguardian.net



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From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 5:06 PM
To: Howell, Art; RidsOpaMail Resource
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: DRAFT SPO ASSESSMENT OF YOUR OFFICE BY REGION IV

Thank you for your support. We don't anticipate the need for a meeting.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
— *Protecting People and the Environment*
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Quayle, Lisa **On Behalf Of** Howell, Art
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:35 PM
To: RidsOpaMail Resource
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: DRAFT SPO ASSESSMENT OF YOUR OFFICE BY REGION IV

Good Day Eliot and Beth! Attached, please find the draft RIV's Mid-Year Senior Performance Official Assessment of OPA. We thank you for your cooperation and support. We do not propose a meeting, but would certainly support one if you would find it helpful. All the best.

Art

APPENDIX B – Primary and Secondary Assessment of Offices

SECONDARY ASSESSMENT OF OPA by Region IV

Supporting Remarks:

- OPA assisted and advised the Regional Administrator and his staff on public affairs aspects of regional programs and activities and on specific public affairs related problems which have risen in the region. OPA provided outstanding assistance to the senior staff to help achieve the agency's strategic goal to ensure transparency in our regulatory processes.
- OPA responded to routine inquiries from members of the public and the news media on NRC and its responsibilities, programs and activities via public meetings, on the telephone and e-mail and prepared high quality public announcements. The activities by the Public Affairs Officers in response to an unprecedented level of media and public inquiries stemming from the recent events in Japan have been outstanding.
- OPA assisted the technical staff in preparing for public meetings by anticipating items of public interest and helping the staff develop responses.
- OPA worked with the technical staff in various public outreach efforts designed to increase confidence in the NRC as an effective and independent regulator. Examples included public appearances along with resident inspectors at a Seismic Workshop and multiple public meetings in the vicinity of Diablo Canyon and San Onofre.

Areas for Improvement:

- None.

Means and Frequency of Interoffice Communications:

- Frequent telephone conferences and communications both internally and with external parties.

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: interviews with commissioners

I've sent a separate email to each chief of staff and carbon copied their commissioners.

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:32 PM
To: Boffey, Philip
Subject: Re: interviews with commissioners

Keeps me clean.
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:31:34 2011
Subject: RE: interviews with commissioners

Why don't I just contact everyone's chief of staff, including Jaczso's?

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

BU/1080

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:55 PM
To: Boffey, Philip
Subject: Re: interviews with commissioners

Phil: I can only speak for jaczko and can probably set you up with him. Talking to othersan at least thru me, difficult. You can contact them directly. They will probably turn to me for guidance and I will vouch for you. Awkward situation for me. I am at presser in vienna right now. Suggest you look at individual member websites for chief of staff contact info.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 14:34:12 2011
Subject: interviews with commissioners

Hi Eliot:

In the wake of the Japanese nuclear plant accident, it seems clear that I will need to follow the nuclear safety issue in this country and abroad for the foreseeable future. I'm wondering if it would be feasible for me to interview each of the five NRC commissioners (separately) with their appropriate staff members for, say, half an hour apiece this coming Friday. The interviews would be on background, would seek their views on the key issues to keep my eye on, and mostly just let them size me up and me size them up. I'm hoping to establish enough mutual confidence that I can bounce questions off of them and get background replies as key issues arise. I've done that with mutually satisfactory results on health care reform issues, mostly because key officials recognize that I'm not looking for breaking news or direct quotes but rather for guidance on how ti interpret information that is publicly available.

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

From: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: Press Briefing by JP and int'l officials on Japan, April 4, 2011

From: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
To: Vienna UNVIE Americans - No Internet Addresses
Sent: Mon Apr 04 22:03:47 2011
Subject: Press Briefing by JP and int'l officials on Japan, April 4, 2011

From: Wolfgang Bednarzek <vienna.usmission@gmail.com>
To: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; simon.morgan@afp.com <simon.morgan@afp.com>
Sent: Mon Apr 04 22:00:25 2011
Subject: Expert Briefing Japan, April 4, 2011

Press Briefing

IAEA Press Room

April 4, 2011

Koichiro Nakamura, NISA

Shinichi Kavarada, MEXT

Gregory Jaczko, NRC

Jukka Laaksonen, WENRA

Andrej Stritar, ENSREG

Denis Flory, IAEA

Start 20:43

Flory, I would like to explain, how the panel was chosen. The panel members were chosen along firsthand information and initial safety measures in Japan and US. US has the same sort of nuclear reactors as Japan. The EU was added in its character as laboratory for stress tests also with issues like harmonizing stress tests and harmonizing safety.

Nakamura, (1.50) thank you etc., during the session I explained the current situation at the Fukushima Daichi power station, specifically the question of the specific events covering unit 1 to 3, and the measures we have taken and also I explained the situation at the spent fuel pools from Unit 1 to 4. As far as environmental monitoring goes I explained what measurements we came up with. In the concluding remarks I mentioned that we would like to gather all possible expertise from home and abroad to overcome this serious accident. Also the Future we would like to analyze all the causes and specific measures taken and this information will be used to improve the safety measures. So during that whole process I would like to provide all information in a transparent manner.

During the second part of the session I explained that the immediate safety measures taken for the other nuclear power plants. So on 30 March the NISA notified the operators urging them to improve safety measures. Even in the wake of the Tsunami we made efforts to avoid loss of all AC power and avoid damage of all reactors and spent fuel pools. NISA urged the operators to take all safety measures.

Kawarada, (7.40), I explained about offsite monitoring activities. In the area within 20 to 40 km radius we have conducting very active monitoring activities and made all data public. As for the monitoring of the ocean we have done that 30 km off the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Plant. Also we have been conducting the aerial monitoring by aircraft. Besides the monitoring activities at the vicinity of the power plants we have been conducting throughout Japan using the monitoring posts placed throughout Japan and publishing the data.

Jaczko, we have tremendous sympathy for the people of Japan struggling with the effects of the disaster. NRC has dispatched a group of technical experts to communicate with JP colleagues and provide advice, part of larger team to help with a very difficult situation. Because of similarities of design and of possibilities of similar disasters in US we ask question. We believe US plants are safe, but we are a learning organization and we are looking into additional possible measures. Short term quick look review, 90 days, then longer review with more indepth info. The efforts to address the situation are really international. We try to provide good communications with each other, effective and efficient. The IAEA has an important role to play to facilitate this information sharing. I want to commend DG Amano for June Conference announcement and we are pleased to support this. Good regulatory systems can ensure plants operate safely.

Laaksonen (13.20) We just completed European review in response to Fukushima accident, separately in each country, started soon after the accident, second one peer review on European level, both processes are "stress tests". What do we mean by this, defined by targeted reassessment of safety of nuclear power plants in light of Fukushima incident. Will be based on existing engineering judgement how nuclear power plants will behave in challenging information. Aim not public confirmation, rather finding further safety improvement measures. Results will have provision for technical and organizational measures for each country. It's very plant specific, plants are different, hazards, too.

Stritat (16.00), I am the chair of the ENSEG, we were charged by the EU Council to prepare stress test. We have initiated very tight cooperation with WENRA. Two weeks ago technical work started, to be finished in a month or so, 12 May ENSEG regular meeting, stress test results expected, to be handed over to Commission. It is of course our main principle that we should improve. We must learn lessons and improve in all possible ways.(18.00)

Q&A

Jahn, AP, to Japanese members of the panel, in this meeting, did you provide new information?

Nakamura, I should say there was new information. As for the Tsunami TEPCO had certain assumptions how the Tsunami could hit. The assumption was 5,7 meters. Against that assumption the actual height, although not officially published, was 14 meters. This information was provided during this meeting.

Jahn, thank you, but I would like to rephrase the question, was there more info beyond that

Jaczko, (21.30) we have had reps in Tokyo in Industry and also in NISA, and the purpose is get information, a lot of information I saw today was consistent with this information. It takes time to get information. Good information assessment takes time and we need to invest time in this.

Laaksonen, we feel that we got a very accurate picture, there were no surprises from today. As an expert we can distinguish credible from non-credible information, and the info we have been receiving is sure good information.

Stritar, concurs, got from today a nicely organized presentation, did not receive more but better presented information

Tirone, Bloomberg, (ca. 23.00) clarification for Nakamura, question Jaczko. What do we know about neutron absorbers in spent fuel ponds. What was the date when boric acid was mixed with seawater, is TEPCO doing continuing monitoring of Neutron. Are NRC experts categorically eliminating re-criticality?

Nakamura, boric acid was injected, defers to TEPCO

TEPCO official, to the reactor core it has been injected, but not to the spent fuel pool. To the spent fuel we could steadily inject water, so far not detected neutrons.

Jaczko, we don't have any evidence of recriticality, our focus is helping the Japanese colleagues

Laakonen, you don't need to monitor neutron to see re-criticality, full spectrum of fission products will be seen by spectrometer.

Dahl, Reuters (26:50), dumping of low radioactive water, how much water is planned to be dumped, for how long.

Nakamura, (27.25), when I am here in Vienna I get the latest data from Japan, according to this data. This is the report from TEPCO. As you know there are stagnant water with high activity in Unit 2. In order for us to restore this water in a stable manner, we need to move it into the centralized waste storage. In that dumping place there is already the contaminated water of 10.000 tons. We need to further discharge this water which is low level radioactive. On top of that in Unit 5, 6 there are underground water accumulated with low radioactivity, but water in drain pit of unit 5 and 6 needs to be removed as well. This ground water 1500 ton plus another 10.000 tons, total to discharge 11500 tons. This fact has been recorded from TEPCO to NISA and we concluded that this measure is indispensable to avoid more serious risk.

Dahl, Reuters, how long will this take

Nakamura (32.00) I haven't heard how long it will take.

EFE, what does low level radiation mean for the general public, and where will this water end up, does this affect the Philippines or other countries in the Pacific. Are TEPCO open for help from France or Germany?

Nakamura (33.37), regarding the low level waste, we haven't a specific numbers for this. We are making the estimations what sort of impact to the environment when we discharge the water. If these low level of radioactive waste water is discharged we are making estimations of the impact, specifically assuming that

people eat fish and seaweed every day. We expect a 0.6 Millisievert per year threshold is taken into account. Based upon the regulatory law for reactors the threshold is 1 Millisievert per year, so we don't see a problem with the discharge. We have been contacting the Ocean monitoring, we continue to monitor and try to increase points and frequency of monitoring. We instructed TEPCO to strengthen monitoring activities.

Laaksonen, when we talk about such discharge, we have to understand, that seawater has a lot of radioactivity already. The total radioactivity will not be raised. You can detect certain radionuclide in Fish or other foodstuff, but it won't damage. We have experience from Baltic Sea after Chernobyl, we know what happened there and we don't see any radioactivity in the Fish or other sea products.

Nakamura (39.45) and to your second question about the overseas assistance. For example a country like the US, specifically NRC, we have received assistance and support and expertise provided from the very beginning of the accident. As Chairman Jaczko said, we have been accepting such support. Also, France, specifically AREVA provided us with radioactive gear and other equipment. From Germany we got I think concrete pumping vehicle which is used for injecting water into the spent fuel pool. AS you know, we have taken support and cooperation from IAEA and we have also been provided from many countries help, e.g. from governments and institutions and from private companies.

China Central Television, (43.10), what are the criteria for Japanese government how to choose assistance from other countries. The IAEA DG says frequently he can only suggest, how does Japan judge what advice to take. Also, please provide a conclusion, lessons learned one month after the accident.

Kawarada (44.50), as you pointed we were offered various suggestions and proposals from IAEA and other countries, and we are very open to accept, but we as Japanese government have to take the decision taking into account offers.

Nakamura (45.55), as you pointed out, in the wake of the earthquake and Tsunami, a certain period elapsed, the cause of the accident was more severe than our assumptions, during this period we have taken various measures in order to maintain cooling functions, specifically U1 to 3, and also for spent fuel pools U1 to 4. In the meantime we switched from the seawater injection to the freshwater injection and used fire extinguishing line that we switched over to power operated motors. We have made progress in this regard and we have now stable cooling functions, so these units are now under control. We should of course apply the cold shut down to all reactors and as far as the spent fuel pool goes we would like to put the SFP into long term stability. For that end we need to restore the cooling system for all reactors – therefore the need to restore all power supply. The restauration of power, the power is now running to the main power center, and in order to restore cooling system function we first have to establish the health of the equipment, including pumps and other equipment. Of course It will take a long time to proceed with the entire process, specifically the power is now in the central control room, however there is no power or lighting on the site. The workers have to work under high levels of radiation. And lots of debris is hindering work. On top of that we have experienced several times per day aftershocks. All this makes our work very difficult and why it has been taking a very long time. (53.02) We have to ensure the long time stability and SFP's. At the same time we have to seal to avoid radioactive material release.

Flory (54.50), we all know that this accident should not have happened, something had not done in the very beginning, but we can learn lessons from this. Everyday I see data which does not make sense, because the measurement systems probably have been changed during the accident. We start the process of learning today, in a more formal way on June 20. Again there will be many issues addressed – design, mitigation, emergency preparedness, safety standards. We do not have the answers today.

MacLaughlin, Platts, DG Amano mentioned he wanted to send an expert Mission to evaluate the situation. Has the JP government agreed to do this? Mr. Jaczko you said you believed US power plants are safe. Mr. Laakonen and Mr. Stritar, can you say the same about EU power plants?

Nakamura, (57.10), I understand the offer of a IAEA review mission. Having said that I am not aware of the details. Discussions within the Japanese government are underway. However I like to add the General Comment from myself. IAEA is such an advanced institution with high expertise and transparency. It is very important to have evaluation and assessment by the IAEA and/or the expert group organized by the IAEA.

Laakonen, I cannot speak on behalf of other regulators. I am confident Finland plants are safe.

Stritar, this is an important question, and this is maybe how the stress tests are misunderstood. The question is not are plants safe. They would not be licensed if they were not safe. The question is to make them even safer.

End: 21:45

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:02 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Photos

I just sent were from press conference after japanese "side event."

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

BV/1082

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:42 PM
To: Marshall, Michael
Subject: Re: If you can meet us

2 minutes.
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Marshall, Michael
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:34:15 2011
Subject: Re: If you can meet us

Waiting.

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Marshall, Michael
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:29:50 2011
Subject: If you can meet us

At the end of the hall that delegation rooms are on -- toward the way out -- you will save a minute and GBJ can leave with you while I fend off press. Leave door oopen so I can get my stuff.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1083

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:10 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Can you do tnt?

On the run. About 50 journalists here and 9 cameras. Major wires, many japanese publications.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

BU/1084

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: IMG-20110404-00023.jpg
Attachments: IMG-20110404-00023.jpg

Chairman framed by tvcameras preparing for press conf monday nite at iaea/cns meeting on japan reactor situation.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

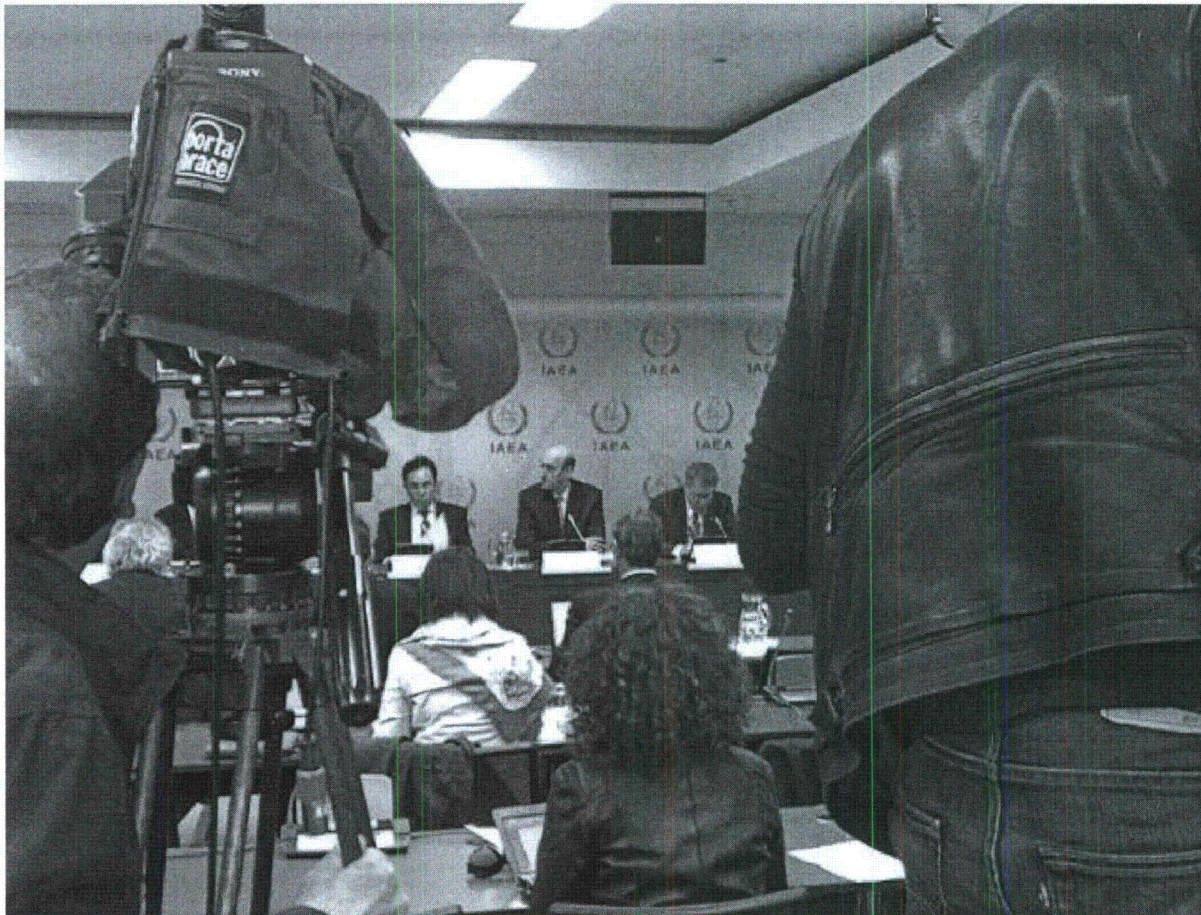
Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

BU/1085



From: Maisano, Frank <Frank.Maisano@bgllp.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:46 PM
To: Maisano, Frank
Subject: Apr 4 Energy Update: GHGs, Energy: Politics, Sport or Blood

Friends,

Today's update starts with the Sports Report because, really, that is all we are thinking about. Baseball is under way and it looks like the Orioles are going 162-0. Butler advanced to the NCAA Basketball finals for the second straight year making a "Hoosiers 2: This Time They Win" sequel possible. Yet, tomorrow, an even more unlikely scenario plays out after last night's upset at the NCAA Women's Final Four where the mighty UConn Women were bounced out by Notre Dame. They play Texas A&M who slew Baylor and Stanford back-to-back. And don't forget the Frozen Four Thursday and Saturday. Finally, it is Master's Week so no calls or e-mails (they slow down the Internet connections) on Thursday and Friday. And don't look now, but we are only a week or so away from chasing the most coveted trophy in sports: Lord Stanley's Cup. Sure it is nice to have the Vince Lombardi trophy, NBA's Larry O'Brien or even the Commissioner's trophy in Baseball, but nothing quite holds up to "The Cup." We'll discuss in detail next week, but to get you excited for the real hockey season, I have added a backgrounder on the history of "The Cup" below.

With the Sports out of the way first, on to the big news. The politics on EPA regulating GHGs is getting weirder and weirder as last week the Senate again postponed votes, amid negotiation and political back and forth. Again, they say there'll be votes this week, but as I said last week, I will only believe it is happening when the vote clock begins and the clerk calls the roll. On the other hand, the House is expected to start voting as early as tomorrow on legislation blocking EPA's carbon rules. The bill will again easily pass, just as it did in committee, leaving the only interesting questions remaining exactly how many Democrats will support the effort and what kind of amendments will the Democrats try to tack on. Let me just add if they try the same ridiculous strategy of voting on "science-type" amendments, it will be a waste of a good political battle.

The real EPA/GHG question has started to turn to the budget and whether EPA restrictions will land there. With reports last week about that possibility, there was significant backtracking as well as lots of "hair on fire" comments and letters from the environmental community, assuring us that it is a definite possibility – even if it really wasn't before. Politically though, many Democrats would love to undercut EPA on GHGs rather than vote against some of their other favorite pet programs.

Also on the Hill this week, the House Science Committee is holding a hearing Wednesday to discuss clean up and containment technologies and their improvements since last year's Macondo spill. Helix CEO Owen Kratz, who has lead efforts in this area will appear. The company spearheads an industry cooperative known as the Helix Well Containment Group, a not-for-profit oil spill response organization serving 23 oil and gas exploration and production companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Four deepwater drilling permits recently granted by the Department of the Interior were issued based upon the containment capabilities offered under the cooperative's Helix Fast Response System.

Also Wednesday and following on last week's energy events aimed at gasoline and clean vehicles, the President will head to suburban Philadelphia to discuss his long-term plan to protect consumers against rising oil prices and decrease oil imports as well as key components of his broader energy plan. He will visit Gamesa Technology Corporation where he will hold a town hall discussion with workers about building a 21st century clean energy economy.

Finally, mark your calendars for April 14th when I will host the first in a series of the National Press Club Newsmakers on the future of nuclear power and Japanese crisis. We're coming out the box strong with an All-Star panel that features RFF President and Blue Ribbon Commission member Phil Sharp, financial energy analyst Kevin Book and Greenpeace nuclear expert Jim Riccio.

As usual, we are fully prepared to address each of these issues with fabulous quotes, in-depth research and substantive background. Please call with questions.

Best,

Frank Maisano

BU/1086

IN THE NEWS

Stanley Cup Playoffs Start April 13 – As you may know, the Stanley Cup playoff start on April 13th, so in preparation, I thought I would forward a little backgrounder on the oldest championship trophy in North America: Lord Stanley's Cup. It was initially bought by Governor General Of Canada Lord Stanley of Preston to be presented to the amateur hockey champion of Canada. It was first presented in 1893. The National Hockey Association purchased the trophy in 1910. Unlike the trophies awarded in the major professional sports, a new Stanley Cup is not made each year; Cup winners keep it until a new champion is crowned. It is unusual among trophies, in that it has the names of all of the winning players, coaches, management, and club staff engraved on its chalice. Currently, in order to have one's name inscribed on the Cup, a player must have played at least 40 games for the championship team during the regular season (provided the player remains with the team when they win the Cup) or at least played in one game of the Final. However, the NHL will also consider other reasons on a case-by-case basis. For example, in 1998, the Detroit Red Wings received special permission from the NHL to engrave Vladimir Konstantinov's name, on the Cup after Detroit defended their title (by thrashing the Capitals!!!). Konstantinov's career ended after a limo accident in June of 1997 following Detroit's first Stanley Cup victory since the late 1950s. Jean Béliveau's name appears the most of any individual, ten times as a player and seven times as management for a total of seventeen times. Henri Richard, with his name engraved eleven times, played on more teams that have won the Stanley Cup than any other player. Currently, the Cup stands at 35¼ inches tall and weighs 34½ lbs. And if you get to hoist it, it apparently is a light as a feather I'm told.

AWC Files First Ever BOEM Application – The Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC) filed the first-ever unsolicited right-of-way application with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the use of certain areas of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to construct an offshore transmission system. "The Mid-Atlantic region's offshore waters hold vast potential for wind energy production. AWC offers a superhighway allowing large-scale development of this strategically important clean domestic energy resource efficiently, economically and with the least environmental impact. AWC supports federal and state economic development, environmental and renewable energy policy objectives, including the renewable energy standards of states in the region, and it would enhance the competitive regional electric market by increasing supply options and reducing congestion on existing facilities. The application builds on the strong momentum created by the identification of four offshore wind energy development zones announced last month by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Energy Secretary Steven Chu. The project will be built in several phases designed to network those development zones and complement the progression of the Mid-Atlantic offshore wind industry while maximizing grid reliability and the benefits from economic dispatch of generation. AWC is the first offshore backbone electricity transmission system proposed in the United States. The project configuration outlined in today's application will enable up to 7,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation capacity to be cost-effectively integrated into the regional power grid operated by PJM Interconnection, increasing system reliability and reducing congestion in the heavily congested corridor between Virginia and the metropolitan New Jersey/New York City area. This cutting-edge high-voltage direct-current subsea backbone transmission system would be constructed off the coasts of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

AGs Ask for GHG Delay – Attorneys General from 19 states plus the territory of Guam have asked EPA to delay for at least three years plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources in a letter last week. "We are writing to ask the EPA to defer its program of greenhouse gas regulations so that Congress can be given an opportunity to evaluate both the need and timing of such regulations," the attorneys general wrote in a March 29 letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. "Such deferral is especially important to us given the disruption that the rapid implementation of the EPA program is causing to the state administrative agencies that we advise and the businesses those agencies have been tasked with regulating. A deferral would allow the current Congress a full opportunity to review the EPA's Endangerment Finding and to determine the best course for our nation to take, the AGs said. They also added that the Clean Air Act is not an effective or efficient vehicle to deal with an issue like the worldwide emissions of GHGs. The attorneys general also said that a deferral would "relieve the pressure on state agencies scrambling to implement new regulatory requirements" in order to avoid potential repercussions from EPA, which has said that it would impose construction bans if the new regulations are not met. The AGs added that there can be "no doubt that the immediate consequences will be to make economic recovery more difficult," adding that a delay would allow time for a study of the long term impact of GHG regulations on jobs and the economy. The letter was signed by attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming.

EIA Report Shows Emissions Decline Due to Recession – The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported total U.S. anthropogenic (human-caused) greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 were 5.8% below the 2008 total in large part due

to the impacts of the economic recession. The decline in total emissions was the largest since emissions have been tracked over the 1990-2009 time frame. The large decline in emissions in 2009 was driven by the economic downturn, combined with an ongoing trend toward a less energy-intensive economy and a decrease in the carbon-intensity of the energy supply, according to EIA Administrator Richard Newell. Among the factors that influenced the emissions decrease was a decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.6%. Once again, our friends in the environmental community are proven right: the best emissions reduction program is to tank the economy. Of course, nobody else actually likes that approach.

UK Study Values Offshore Wind at \$273 Billion by 2050 – New economic analysis released by the Carbon Trust says that global offshore wind is set to grow by up to 10% per year, which is estimated to be worth up to \$273 billion a year by 2050. The new analysis also concludes the sector could be employing up to 230,000 people in the UK by 2050. The research examined the potential of offshore wind to drive green growth in the UK, based on global deployment levels of up to 1150GW by 2050. It looked in detail at jobs and revenues by industry sector, including turbines, foundations, collection & transmission, installation and the operation and maintenance of offshore windfarms. It found that offshore wind could represent a gross contribution to UK GDP generated by business of up to \$16 billion a year, 160.4 billion cumulatively between 2010 and 2050. By 2050, the greatest contribution for the UK will be created by the operation and maintenance of offshore wind farms, followed by turbine manufacture and installation. The new data also concludes that offshore wind could create up to 230,000 jobs in the UK by 2050. Exports from the UK offers significant growth potential, generating up to 80% of total jobs out to 2050.

THE SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Spill Hearing Continue in NOLA – A joint panel from the U.S. Coast Guard and Interior Department that is investigating the Deepwater Horizon accident will hold its seventh round of hearings next week in New Orleans. The hearings, run from Monday through Friday at the Holiday Inn Metairie New Orleans Airport in Metairie and will focus on the blowout preventer from the rig, particularly the findings of the report conducted by Det Norske Veritas and released last week.

Bloomberg Summit Focused on Clean Energy, Carbon – In its fourth year, the Bloomberg New Energy Finance Summit will be held on today through Thursday in New York at the Pierre Hotel and will focus on clean energy and carbon markets. Hosted for the first time in New York, the Summit will bring together around 400 industry leaders from across the world. The 2011 Summit now includes a supplementary Roundtable Day on Energy Access and Climate Finance in Association with UN-Energy. Speakers will include NYC Mayor Bloomberg, World Bank President Robert Zoellick, Climate academic and author Bjorn Lomborg, UK Minister for Climate Greg Barker, NREL Director Dan Arvizu, POET's Jeff Broin, former FERC Chair Joe Kelliher of NextEra Energy, DOE's Jonathan Silver and our friend Rick Needham, head of Green Business Operations for Google, among others

Murkowski, FERC Officials Address Hydro Conference – The National Hydropower Association will hold its annual conference today through Wednesday at the Capital Hilton in Washington D.C. More than 500 hydro professionals will attend the 2011 National Hydropower Association Annual Conference, focusing on hydro energy as America's foundation for a renewable energy future. The event will bring together industry leaders, state and federal regulatory officials and key legislative staff to discuss technology, policy and future development options for the hydropower sector. Special keynote guest speakers include Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), FERC Commissioner John R. Norris and J. Mark Robinson, former director of FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

Energy Panel to Look at China, Energy – The House Energy and Commerce's Energy and Power panel will hold a hearing today at 3:00 p.m. to focus on China's energy portfolio and the implications for the jobs and energy prices in the United States. Witnesses include Steven Kopits of Douglas-Westwood, Peabody's Fred Palmer, WRI's Deborah Seligsohn and Mary Hutzler at the Institute for Energy Research.

Forum to Focus on State Energy Programs – The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) hosts a briefing today at 3:30 p.m. in 2212 Rayburn on how state governments are implementing energy programs and the economic development activities associated with those programs. State officials and representatives will discuss the U.S. State Energy Program (SEP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and how these programs create jobs, reduce energy bills, and enhance energy security. This briefing will provide data and information about the energy-related economic development being promoted by the nation's 56 State and Territory Energy Offices and public and private sector partners. Speakers for this event include Maryland's Malcolm Woolf, Ginger Willson of the Nebraska State Energy Office, Robert Scott of the National Association for State Community Services Programs and David Terry, Executive Director of the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Issa to Headline Forum – The American Council of Capital Formation (ACCF) will hold a Capital Formation Forum breakfast tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. in the Capitol Hill Club featuring Representative Darrell Issa, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As Chairman, Issa directs the Committee's primary responsibility to exercise effective oversight over the federal government and proactively investigate and expose waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee provides oversight of virtually everything government does - from national security to homeland security grants, from federal workforce policies to regulatory reform and reorganization authority, from information technology procurements at individual agencies to government-wide data security standards.

House Approps to Look at Ag Enviro Programs – The House Approps panel on agriculture spending panel meets tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to discuss USDA's budget request for natural resources and environmental programs.

House Resources Looks at BLM Policies, Water, Marks Up Hastings Legislation – The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee holds a 10:00 a.m. oversight hearing on the impact of Obama's budget proposal for BLM and the U.S. Forest Service's Energy and Minerals Program on private sector job creation and domestic energy production. Witnesses include BLM Director Bob Abbey, USDA Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management Director Tony Ferguson, Rio Blanco County Commissioner Shawn Bolton, Western Energy Alliance President James Schroeder, Northwest Mining Association executive Laura Skaer and Whit Fosburgh of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Also, tomorrow at two, the Committee's Water subcommittee holds at 2:00 p.m. for a hearing on creating abundant water and power supplies and job growth by restoring common sense to Federal regulations. Then on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Energy panel will return to legislation that was introduced last week by Chairman Doc Hastings aimed at boosting domestic oil and gas production.

Tesla Head to Speak to Stimson Event – The Stimson Center will hold its Chairman's Forum tomorrow at Noon featuring Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla Motors. The Stimson Chairman's Forum is a strategic conversation, featuring respected opinion leaders in the foreign and security policy arena. Lincoln Bloomfield, Jr., Stimson's Chairman of the Board, holds these informal discussions about eight times a year to address the most relevant global issues we face today. Past guests include Senator Lindsey Graham, Daniel Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy, Rep. Howard Berman, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Richard L. Armitage, former Deputy Secretary of State, and General Michael V. Hayden, former director of the CIA.

Forum to Address China, Renewables – The ChinaFAQs project of the World Resources Institute (WRI) will hold a briefing tomorrow in SVC 203/202 Capitol Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m. to look at China's increasing role in advancing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate policies. China is a leader in the deployment of clean energy technologies, and the world's largest manufacturer of wind turbines and solar panels. The United States and China cooperate on a number of clean energy initiatives, producing benefits for both countries. However, China has emerged as a major competitor with the United States and other countries in clean energy technology on a global scale. Moreover, some commentators in each country see the other country as a roadblock to an international climate agreement, and China and the United States emit the most greenhouse gases in the world. Speakers will highlight key aspects of China's approach to clean energy and climate policy, how it fits into the global landscape, and the challenges and opportunities for U.S. efforts to develop clean energy and tackle climate change. Speakers for this event include Mark Levine of the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Joanna Lewis of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, WRI's Deborah Seligsohn, Chinese Embassy First Secretary Sun Guoshun and Kathy Weiss of First Solar.

Heritage Forum to Look at Oil's Political Risks – The Heritage Foundation will host a forum tomorrow at Noon on oil issues and potential price spikes. Political risks, such as social upheavals in the Persian Gulf, terrorism, and future wars have the potential to significantly affect the global supply of oil and drive prices up. Ongoing events in the Middle East; rising demand for oil in developing countries, especially India and China; commodity speculation in oil; and potential terrorist attacks on key transportation nodes, refineries, and oil fields have a major economic impact on the oil market. However, the global oil market can adjust to supply disruptions. Reliance on long-term market forces and coordinated security activities with allies and major oil producers and consumers can restore confidence in energy markets faster than a response that relies solely on government intervention. The lack of U.S. leadership in case of an oil crisis, however, would lead to further threats to the global energy production and transportation system and to negative economic outcomes. The United States must develop pro-active, multi-layered preventive and responsive strategies to deal with political threats to the security of oil supply. A panel of experts discusses strategic threats to oil supply and the policy options available to the United States and other oil consuming and producing states. They will also examine lessons learned from a recent Heritage Foundation energy crisis simulation exercise. They include Bruce Everett of Tufts University and Heritage experts David Kreutzer and Derek Scissors.

Forest Service Sets Public Hearings on Forest Planning Rule – The US Forest Service (USFS) holds its final public meetings on its proposed re-write of the Forest Planning Rule with a meeting on Wednesday in Delta, CO at 4:00 p.m. at the GMUG Forest Supervisor's Office. USFS says purpose for the forums includes increasing public understanding

about the draft rule and explaining how input gathered from the public during the scoping process is incorporated into the design of the rule.

RFF Seminar to Focus on Deepwater Drilling – Our friends at Resources for the Future (RFF) will hold their April "First Wednesday Seminar" seminar on Wednesday at 12:45 p.m. looking at deepwater drilling recommendations for a safer future. In August 2010, the RFF Center for Energy Economics and Policy responded to a request from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling to conduct research to inform the commission's work. As a result, RFF researchers identified key recommendations to improve the safety of future operations and shape U.S. regulatory practices as the benchmark for deepwater oil drilling. This panel will explore some of the key recommendations resulting from RFF's research on the risks of deepwater drilling. How can incentives be strengthened for industry to invest more in safety culture? How can policymakers adapt the regulatory environment to the risks of deepwater drilling? How can industry and government prepare for the risk of a future catastrophic spill? Panelists will include Georgetown Law prof Richard Lazarus, who served as Executive Director of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling; Mark Cohen of RFF and former Interior official Lynn Scarlett, a visiting scholar at RFF.

House Science to Look at Spill Technology Improvements – Speaking of drilling, the House Science Committee is holding a hearing Wednesday to discuss clean up and containment technologies and their improvements since last year's Macondo spill. Helix CEO Owen Kratz, who has lead efforts in this area will appear. The company spearheads an industry cooperative known as the Helix Well Containment Group, a not-for-profit oil spill response organization serving 23 oil and gas exploration and production companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Four deepwater drilling permits recently granted by the Department of the Interior were issued based upon the containment capabilities offered under the cooperative's Helix Fast Response System. The system incorporates lessons learned while leading the Macondo Incident Control and Spill Containment effort, in which four Helix-owned vessels played instrumental roles.

House Energy Focuses on Japan Nuke Crisis – Following last week's Senate Energy briefing, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's oversight panel holds a hearing Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. on the U.S. government's response to the Fukushima nuclear crisis in Japan.

McCarthy to Testify at House Oversight on GHGs – The House Oversight Committee's regulatory affairs panel will hold a hearing on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the impact of Greenhouse Gas Regulations on businesses. EPA's Gina McCarthy is on the second panel.

BPC Forum to Look at NatGas Markets – The Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a forum and a policy discussion on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in 2218 Rayburn featuring a new report from its Task Force on Ensuring Stable Natural Gas Markets. Opening statements from will be made by House Natural Gas Caucus Co-Chairs Dan Boren (D-OK) and Tim Murphy (R-PA). There will also be a panel discussion featuring American Clean Skies Foundation's Greg Staple and Norm Szydlowski of SemGroup Corporation. The panel will be moderated by former Senate Leader Trent Lott, now a Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center. The Task Force, a diverse group of producers, consumers and other experts, was jointly convened by the Bipartisan Policy Center and the American Clean Skies Foundation in March 2010 to examine historic causes of instability in natural gas markets and to explore potential solutions. The Task Force report finds that the growth of shale gas production can reduce the susceptibility of natural gas markets to price instability and provide an opportunity to expand the efficient use of natural gas in the United States.

AEI to Look at Rare-Earths Challenge – The American Enterprise Institute will hold an afternoon forum on Wednesday starting at 1:00 p.m. that will look at the discussion of the rare earths and the policy ramifications of their scarcity, geographic distribution, environmental impacts, and near-monopolistic market. A somewhat obscure group of elements--the rare-earth elements--have suddenly become a political issue. Critical to the manufacture of high-tech devices such as smartphones, hybrid vehicle motors, wind turbines, solar cells, weapon systems, oil and chemical refining, and more, the rare-earth elements are increasingly in short supply and more expensive as these technologies proliferate. These elements are mainly produced and refined in China, which has recently warned of forthcoming export reductions due to increased domestic demand and restraints on production attributed to environmental concerns. In response to a perceived "rare-earth crisis," some analysts have called for restoring US domestic production of the rare earths, and for challenging China in the World Trade Organization. Others have suggested stockpiling and recycling programs. Our friends Ken Green will be master of ceremonies and two panels will focus on physical elements of the rare-earth situation (featuring Cindy Hurst of the Foreign Military Studies Office, Jack Lifton of Technology Metals Research and Belva Martin of GAO) and the public policy dimension (featuring our friend Andy Davis at MolyCorp, MIT's Robert Jaffe, Lisa Margonelli of the New America Foundation and Francis Slakey of the American Physical Society).

Forum to Look at Hydro Power – The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) will hold a forum on hydropower Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in 2322 Rayburn. The U.S. hydropower industry provides about 7% of our electricity and

employs 200,000-300,000 people in project development and deployment, manufacturing, operations and maintenance. Hydroelectric pumped storage facilities also provide reliable and cost-effective energy storage, helping stabilize the grid by balancing electricity supply and demand. This briefing will examine the full spectrum of water power technologies - including incremental hydropower, ocean, tidal, in-stream hydrokinetic, and pumped storage - as well as geographic areas for potential growth in hydropower capacity, the job growth and economic benefits of hydropower development, and federal policy options to help the industry grow while protecting important environmental values. Case studies will be presented by Kleinschmidt Associates, an engineering firm supporting a conventional hydro facility expansion on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania; Eagle Crest Energy, a developer of a closed-loop pumped storage project in Southern California; and York, Pennsylvania-based Voith Hydro, a turbine supplier for new hydro projects on existing dams on the Ohio River and others. Speakers for this event include Linda Church Ciocci of the National Hydropower Association, Tim Oakes of Kleinschmidt Associates, Doug Divine of Eagle Crest Energy, Kevin Frank of Voith and NHA's Jeffrey Leahey.

Heritage Forum to Look at Enviro Regs – The Heritage Foundation will hold event and release a report Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. on the environmental regulatory stranglehold on the economy and the responsible development of America's resources. The inability of America to develop its vast natural resources due to the manipulation of environmental laws, which have helped clean up America, are restraining global competitiveness and driving the United States toward becoming a Second World Country. John Shively, former Alaska State Commissioner of Natural Resources under Governor Tony Knowles (D), advocates for common sense and the need for regulatory balance. The instability of the current regulatory process impacts the nation's global investment climate ultimately resulting in job loss. Shively takes a forthright look at how abuse of the legal system and laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act are being manipulated beyond recognition in order to halt development of domestic energy supplies and rich mineral resources across the country, especially in Alaska. Shively also highlights the devastating costs the current regulatory stranglehold on resource development will have on economic development and the standard of living for people at all income levels in the United States.

NAF Panel to Look at Energy, Transportation – The New America Foundation will hold a panel on Thursday at 8:30 a.m. looking at energy policy. Currently, there is little bipartisan cooperation on controlling greenhouse gases, energy policy, or funding the 2011 transportation bill. Everyone wants to change something about America's energy policy, but it's been largely static for 30 years. Maybe policy makers need to change the way we think. Can we enhance Transit Oriented Development with Transit Oriented Employment that offers workers more transportation choices? Can we reduce our dependence on oil by revitalizing rural areas? Could we expand the definition of a "green job" to mean one that doesn't require a car and \$4 gas to get to work? Could we fund our nearly bankrupt transportation infrastructure by paying down the deficit at the same time? The New America Foundation and a panel of experts will discuss the nation's chewiest infrastructure and energy security problems. Participants include Jed Kolko of the Public Policy Institute of California, NRDC's Deron Lovaas and Shin-Pei Tsay of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Senate Energy to Look at Biofuels, Legislation – The Senate Energy and Natural Resources panel meets on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. to discuss DOE's biofuel programs, biofuel infrastructure issues and S.187, the "Biofuels Market Expansion Act of 2011."

Energy Committee Staffer to Speak at USEA Meeting – The United State Energy Association will hold its annual membership meeting and public policy forum at the National Press Club on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Highlights of the forum will include, remarks from Jack Fletcher, president of Bechtel Oil, Gas and Chemicals, the presentation of the 2011 United State Energy award and remarks from Robert Simon, staff director of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

House Energy Panel to Look at New EPA Bill – The House Energy Committee's Energy and Power panel will hold a hearing Thursday at 1:00 p.m. on new legislation from Utah Democrat Jim Matheson and Oklahoma Republican John Sullivan that would direct EPA to provide more information about the cumulative economic impacts of various regulations and require them to harmonize pending rules to give the industry increased certainty. The name of the bill: Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act of 2011 or the TRAIN Act. The question is whether they aim to "train" EPA or industry.

Forum to Look at Retail Energy Market – The energy consulting firm KEMA will hold its 22nd Executive Forum on Thursday and Friday at the JW Marriott in San Antonio, Texas to discuss the retail energy industry. As the leading event in the US retail energy industry, KEMA's Executive Forum will gather senior executives, regulators, energy buyers, investors and other stakeholders from across North America to discuss the key business and policy issues facing retail energy markets.

Budget Experts Look at Economic Impacts, Regulations – Resources for the Future (RFF) will hold special one-day conference on Thursday looking at greater use of economic analysis to improve regulatory policy. The event, sponsored by RFF and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, will take a closer look at the significant effects of regulations on the economy and welfare, as well as on entrepreneurship and economic growth. But federal regulatory agencies differ not only in their policies and practices, but also in their use of economic analysis in rulemaking. Speakers at this conference will explore how greater use of economic analysis may improve regulatory decisionmaking and public accountability, while also promoting economic growth and entrepreneurship. The keynote speaker is former Director of OMB and former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Alice Rivlin, now a Senior Fellow of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. Other featured speakers include former Administrator of the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs during the Clinton Administration Sally Katzen and Wendy Gramm, former Administrator of the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and former Chair of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

Forum to Focus on Transmission – The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems) will hold the eighth in a series of briefings about regulatory and policy issues affecting the nation's electric power system on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in 2325 Rayburn. Investment in electric transmission infrastructure is among the nation's highest energy priorities because a strong grid facilitates development of alternative generation resources, promotes a liquid wholesale power market with minimal congestion and market power, improves reliability and energy security, and advances energy independence overall. The nation is likely to invest more than \$300 billion in electric transmission during the next 20 years. By delving into the operation and regulation of the grid and the interstate flows of electricity it supports, the briefing is designed to provide a foundation for discussions about cost responsibility, land use issues, transmission planning, integration of variable renewable energy resources, and other issues that are becoming more important to the future of the power industry. The panel will describe the 21st century grid and how it is managed and regulated from the perspective of federal regulators, transmission providers, state officials, and regional transmission organizations. Speakers for this event include Mary Cain, Technical Advisor to FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur; Jay Caspary, Director of Transmission Development of the Southwest Power Pool; Wayne Galli of Clean Line Energy; Rich Halvey of the Western Governors Association and former FERC Chair Jim Hoecker.

EPA's Anastas To Highlight GWU Health Forum – The George Washington University, the University Seminar Series, the GW Institute for Sustainability and the Children's National Medical Center will host a talk by Dr. Paul Anastas, Assistant Administrator at EPA's Office of Research and Development on taking environmental and human health protection to the next level. GWU President Dr. Steven Knapp will offer opening remarks. The event will be at Noon on GW's Duques Hall Room 651. It will also feature a panel discussion with SPHHS Dean Dr. Lynn Goldman, GW School of Business professor and Director of the Institute for Corporate Responsibility Environmental Sustainability Program Mark Starik and John I. Carruthers, who directs GWU's Sustainable Urban Planning Program in the College of Professional Studies

Frozen Four Semifinals Kick Off – The second best tournament in hockey starts its semifinal round in St. Paul Thursday with Minnesota-Duluth ("Dalute" for those of you that know) taking on the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame at 5:00 p.m. In the nightcap, Michigan plays #1-ranked North Dakota at 8:30 p.m. Both games go on EPSN2, with the finals on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Wind Power, Finance Workshop Set for NY – AWEA will host its annual Wind Power Finance and Investment workshop on Thursday and Friday in New York. Wind and financial markets in the U.S. are dynamic and this workshop brings together the major players in wind energy finance to offer insights into the current state of the markets. Influencers and financial market leaders will discuss upcoming trends that will impact the industry, key government policies that are major issues, and discuss aspects of the wind finance business that differentiate leaders from followers. The panels will look at how key regulatory uncertainties have been addressed, the state of debt and equity capital markets, offshore wind financing issues, the U.S. power market outlook and much more. Speakers include former FERC Chair Pat Wood and Randy Mann of Edison Mission Energy. At the event, AWEA will also its 2010 U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report featuring comments by our friend Elizabeth Salerno, Chief Economist and Director of Industry Data & Analysis for AWEA.

EU Commissioner to Keynote Forum on Climate, Security – The Carnegie Institute will hold a forum on Friday starting at 9:00 a.m. where EU Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard will present a keynote address on the need to address climate and energy security threats and embracing clean technologies in support of the transition to a low-carbon economy. Climate change presents common threats to the security, economy, and environment of the European Union and United States. At the same time, the transition to a low-carbon economy has the potential to provide a major boost in innovation, investment, and enhanced competitiveness. While facing similar challenges, the EU and United States have taken significantly different approaches to capping greenhouse gas emissions. A panel discussion will follow Commissioner Hedegaard's address featuring Jonathan Elkind of the U.S. Department of Energy, Sherri Goodman of the Center for Naval Analysis, and Nigel Purvis of Climate Advisers.

JHU Forum to Look at Nuclear Fuel – The Johns Hopkins University's Energy, Resources and Environment Program will host a forum on Friday at 1:00 p.m. in Room 500 of the Bernstein-Offit Building looking at charting a course for America's nuclear fuel cycle. Sekazi Mtingwa, senior lecturer of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and senior physicist consultant to Brookhaven National Laboratory, will discuss this topic.

Scottish Government to Host Symposium on Low Carbon Economy – The Scottish Government will host a symposium on Friday afternoon at The British Embassy (3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW) focused on their efforts to develop a low carbon economy. The half-day symposium, hosted by Scotland's Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Jim Mather MSP, is designed to bring together leading US and Scottish policy-makers, innovators and business people, to explore common approaches to developing energy policies, technologies, regulation and financial instruments that support the development of a low carbon economy. With around a quarter of Europe's tidal and offshore wind energy resource and a high concentration cutting-edge research and development capacity, Scotland is at the forefront of the international drive towards a low carbon economy. And remember, if it's not Scottish, it's CRAPPPPP!!!!

Yale Conference to Feature Wellinghoff – The Yale Climate & Energy Institute will hold its Annual Conference for 2011 in New Haven on Friday and Saturday in New Haven focusing on technological innovation for an energy-secure future. Speakers include FERC Chair Jon Wellinghoff, former CIA Director James Woolsey and former IPCC Chair Dr. Rajendar Pachauri, who now directs Yale's CEI. Other speakers include DOE's Arun Majumdar, who directs ARPA-E and former DOE official Ernest Moniz, who now heads MIT's Energy Initiative.

THE WEEKS AHEAD:

FERC's Norris, Marubeni Exec Headline Platts Conference – Platts will hold its 26th annual Global Power Markets Conference on April 11 and 12th at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. It is the seminal gathering place for power industry leaders that explores the issues crucial to the development of electric power markets worldwide. Among the speakers this year will be FERC Commissioner John Norris, CFTC Commissioner Bart Chilton, EPSA President John Shelk and our friend Richard Straebel of Marubeni Power, an AWC partner.

Energy Transformation Symposium Set – The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and the Consortium for Energy Efficiency, with support from the US EPA/DOE ENERGY STAR Programs, are hosting the 15th annual National Symposium on Market Transformation "Transitions and Transformation" at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel on April 11th and 12th. For over a decade, the National Symposium on Market Transformation has brought together policy makers, program planners, implementers and evaluators, as well as manufacturers and trade allies to discuss the latest progress in the field of market transformation. Since the inaugural workshop in 1997, we've witnessed considerable growth and change within the field of market transformation in response to shifts in the economic, political, and regulatory climate for energy efficiency programs and services. The Symposium seeks to address opportunities and challenges within the field with a stimulating program covering the latest hot topics, updates on current program approaches, new strategies for program design, integration of multiple program objectives, and evaluation methodologies. Over the past several years we've seen many shifts in the dominant market forces that drive and hinder improvements in energy efficiency: a struggling economy, the rise and fall of climate legislation, rapid technology development, and a growing awareness of the potential for energy efficiency to help meet our economic and environmental goals. All of these forces, both positive and negative, highlight an important strategic need for the efficiency community: to look beyond short term opportunities and toward sustainable, long term business practices. The 2011 National Symposium on Market Transformation will examine the major transitions taking place across many sectors of the field of energy efficiency. During the plenary session, 6 concurrent sessions, and 20 working sessions, presenters and participants will discuss how we can work together to both drive these changes, respond to emerging challenges, and make the most of opportunities as they unfold.

IPAA NY Forum Set to Look at Investment Community – The Independent Petroleum Assn of American (IPAA) will hold its Oil & Gas Investment Symposium New York (OGIS New York) at the Sheraton NY Hotel & Towers on April 11 – 13. It has become the premier outlet for publicly traded independent exploration and production, service and supply and MLP companies to present their company profiles to the investment community. Last year's OGIS New York attracted over 1,600 attendees, including more than 800 buy/sell-side analysts. With everything going on in the oil/gas industry over the past year, this might be an event to watch.

Bluewater Head to Address Yale Group – Peter Mandelstam, Founder and President of Bluewater Wind will deliver a lecture at the Yale's Center for Environmental Law and Policy on Tuesday April 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Kroon Hall's Burke Auditorium in New Haven. Mandelstam is expected to discuss offshore wind and its future role in reducing climate emissions

Forum to Look at EPA Impacts – SNL Financial will hold a webinar on Tuesday, April 12th at 1:30 p.m. to look at the electric utility sector as it braces for major policy initiatives being moved by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA is proposing new rules that will have a major impact on the industry, including the Maximum Achievable Control Technology for utilities (MACT) rule, mercury, arsenic and certain other emissions standards for coal-fired and oil-fired electric generating units and a rule addressing structures at power plants that draw in water for cooling. MACT will require a plant-by-plant standard for various hazardous air pollutants and is scheduled to be finalized in November. The Cooling Water Intake Structure standards, or CWIS, are designed to protect fish and other aquatic life and will impact roughly 60% of U.S. nuclear plants and hundreds of coal-fired stations. The so-called Clean Air Mercury Rule will impact around 1,200 coal-fired units and 150 oil-fired units and the national annual cost of complying with the proposed rule is estimated to be \$10.9 billion in 2016. In addition, the EPA proposed the Clean Air Transport Rule in July 2010, which is scheduled to be finalized in June and take effect in 2012. The transport rule applies to large generators in 31 states and the District of Columbia. It replaces the 2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule and regulates SO₂ and NO_x. A panel of experts will discuss how these EPA policies may have implications for short- and long-term generation planning and generation strategy. Panelists include our friend Bryan Hannegan of EPRI, former assistant Energy Secretary who has downplayed the impacts Sue Tierney and former NY Gov George Pataki Chief of Staff John Cahill.

ELI to Look at Upcoming SCOTUS Climate Case – Environmental Law Institute will hold a seminar on Wednesday, April 13th at Noon to look at on the next landmark Supreme Court climate case. In what many are calling the most important environmental case since *Massachusetts v. EPA*, on April 19 the Supreme Court will hear arguments to decide whether states and private parties can sue power companies under federal common law for contributing to global warming and compel them to cap CO₂ emissions. The case "American Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut" was originally brought in 2004 by various states, New York City and several land trusts against certain utilities, arguing that the utilities were creating a public nuisance because they were emitting greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Though three other similar cases have been brought around the country, none has yet made it to trial--and AEP is the first to reach the Supreme Court. Significant developments include: the recusal of Justice Sonya Sotomayor; an Obama administration brief filed on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority that sides with industry; and a brief by G.O.P. lawmakers saying that the case involves political and public policy matters that should be left to the legislative and executive branches of the government to address. Environmentalists point out that, to date, there is little to indicate that the other branches of government are taking meaningful action to limit greenhouse gas emissions. A high-level panel will discuss and debate the major issues at play and the likely outcome of the case, including the critical questions of constitutional standing and application of the "political question doctrine," as well as whether a federal common law cause of action to cap climate emissions exists – and, if so, whether EPA's actions to date on climate change have effectively displaced it. Panelists include Richard Bress of Latham & Watkins, Eric Glitzenstein of Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, Widener University Law professor James May and David Rivkin of Baker & Hostetler.

Newsmakers to Look at Future of Nuclear Power, Japan Impacts – The National Press Club Newsmakers will hold the first in a series newsmakers on the future of nuclear power and Japanese crisis on April 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Lisagor Room. I am hosting the event and we're coming out the box strong with an all-star panel that features RFF President and Blue Ribbon Commission member Phil Sharp, financial energy analyst Kevin Book and Greenpeace nuclear expert Jim Riccio. Future panels are expected on health issues and an industry perspective.

McCarthy, Sutley Headline Carbon Forum – Our friends at Point Carbon are hosting a forum in Los Angeles on April 14 and 15 called Navigating the American Carbon World (NACW) 2011 will feature experts and leaders in carbon policy and regulation. Speakers include EPA's Gina McCarthy, CEQ's Nancy Sutley, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Linda Adams and CARB Chair Mary Nichols.

Mass Gov. Deval Patrick to Hit Press Club – The National Press Club will host a luncheon with Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick on Thursday, April 14th to discuss his memoirs. Expected discussion topic will include Cape Wind and the nasty fight over the project that the Governor supported.

ELI Forum to Investigate Gas Drilling Issues – Environmental Law Institute will hold a seminar on Thursday, April 14th at Noon to look at the nuts and bolts of Marcellus Shale drilling and fracking. Abundant, inexpensive, and lower in emissions than traditional coal power sources, natural gas is expected to play an enormous role in our energy future. The economic, energy and environmental implications of natural gas are amplified by fast-moving legal developments, including many proposals for new studies, regulations and legislation. An expert panel will discuss these developments in Marcellus Shale, where the issues mirror those of other gas fields across the country, and stay tuned for our second installment on May 19, 2011, Policy Implications of Marcellus Shale Drilling and Fracking, where we will build on this discussion and talk about policy implications of Marcellus Shale drilling in a national energy context. The experts include Terry Bossert of Chief Oil & Gas, Sierra Club's Deborah Nardone, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Elizabeth Nolan.

Trans-Elect's Mitchell to Headline Offshore Wind Conference – The 4th annual North American Offshore Wind Development & Finance Summit will be held in Washington, DC at the Almas Temple Club on April 11th -14th. The event will focus on the emergence of technologies that will enable wind farms in the deeper waters prevalent in many regions of North America, as well as the tangible progress being made in testing and commercializing designs. The Summit will once again bring leading developers together with the policymakers, equipment vendors, vessel providers, engineering firms and utility customers needed to complete offshore wind projects. Trans-Elect's Bob Mitchell will make a special address and lead a list of more than 60 speakers. Mitchell is leading Trans-Elect's effort to develop the Atlantic Wind Connection, a visionary and transformative subsea transmission backbone designed to enable offshore wind energy development in the Mid-Atlantic region. Recently, Trans-Elect was named *EnergyBiz's* 2011 Energy Company of the Year."

Cato Forum to Look at Transportation – The Cato Institute will host an event on Friday, April 15th at Noon on America's transportation future in B-340 Rayburn. With Congress poised to pass a surface transportation reauthorization bill in 2011, America's transportation system is at a crossroads. Should we emphasize high-cost forms of transportation, such as light rail and high-speed rail, whose main goal is to get a few people out of their cars? Or should we find low-cost technologies that can increase personal mobility for everyone, regardless of their income? Panelists Alan Pisarski will discuss the future of urban commuting, Clyde Hart will describe the current and future state of intercity bus transportation, and Randal O'Toole will show how future automobile technologies will save more energy and relieve congestion at a lower cost than heavy investments in new infrastructure.

Supreme Court to Hear AEP v. CT Case – On Tuesday, April 19th, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will hear arguments on the *Connecticut v. AEP* Case.

CSIS Forum to Focus on Spill Issues – The Center for Security and International Studies will host another event in its Energy and National Security Program on April 19th, 9:00 a.m. focused on the impacts of the Gulf oil spill.

Turner, T. Boone Debate Energy at Press Club – The National Press Club will host a luncheon debate on Tuesday, April 19th focusing on American energy policy. It will feature Ted Turner, chairman of Ted Turner Enterprises and CNN founder, and T. Boone Pickens, founder of BP Capitol, to debate. Pickens will outline his "Pickens Plan" to reduce America's dependence on Middle East oil through alternate energy sources, such as wind, solar power, and natural gas. Turner will discuss renewable solar energy, including his recent solar projects in New Mexico and Atlanta, as well as nuclear disarmament and global politics. As usual, lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. with the speeches beginning at 1 p.m.

US FWS to Host Wind Turbine Guidelines Meeting – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee meeting on April 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 530, Arlington and is open to the public. The meeting agenda will include a presentation and discussion of the Service's Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. FWS recently released a draft of its voluntary guidelines for land-based wind energy project development in an effort to encourage responsible selection of project. Unfortunately, the FWS guidance deviates significantly from the consensus recommendations of a three-year stakeholder process. Among other problems with the guidance, it could delay construction of projects by up to three years. As well, it may require operating projects to retroactively conduct post-construction wildlife studies for a minimum of two and as much as five years, adding unforeseen costs to the operating budgets of these facilities. This meeting will feature the first real discussion among stakeholders of the Service's new guidelines.

MD Gov to Address Green Building Summit – The US Green Building Council will hold its annual Government Summit 2011 on May 10-11 in Washington, D.C. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. There will be many panels and speakers on energy efficient buildings and new green technologies. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley will be a featured Keynote Speaker among many others.

WINDPOWER 2011 Set for Anaheim – WINDPOWER 2011 Conference & Exhibition is set for Anaheim, CA on May 22-25 in the Convention Center. Speakers will include Ted Turner, Jay Leno and many more. Stay tuned for more information as this gets closer.

SNL to Host Power Policy Forum – The SNL Power Policy Forum will be held on June 7th at New York's Union League Club. It will bring together panels of Washington insiders to New York to clarify and opine on Federal action in the energy sector and its impact on power companies and their investors. Key topics include the impact of primacy decisions and cost allocation on the expansion of America's transmission infrastructure; Dodd-Frank, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and energy trading; the effect on utilities and the energy chain of proposed EPA revisions to the Clean Air Act; and the congressional legislative agenda under the current political regime. Speakers will include myself and our friends Kevin Book of ClearView Energy Partners, Jim Lucier of Capital Alpha Partners and Christine Tezak of R.W. Baird,

as well as Senate Energy Republican Staff Director McKie Campbell, PJM's Craig Glazer and FERC Commissioner Phil Moeller and others.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:32 PM
To: 'browndm@washpost.com'
Subject: Re: kudos on the sunday story

If we can help just holler. Scott Burnell is our reactor pro.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: David Brown <browndm@washpost.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 13:23:37 2011
Subject: Re: kudos on the sunday story

Dear Mr. Brenner

Thanks very much for this. I heard from another of the NRC press officers, who also liked the story and suggested that perhaps I should have consulted the NRC for it. Which I should have, even though I had mountains of material.

best
DB

beat

David Brown National Staff The Washington Post

browndm@washpost.com (202) 334-5049

"Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>

To "browndm@washpost.com" <browndm@washpost.com>

cc

04/04/2011 11:23 AM

Subject: kudos on the sunday story

Mr. Brown: I am the flack for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, currently in Vienna for an IAEA Japan-related event. I finally got caught up on the clips and saw your Sunday piece. It was the most clear and dispassionate piece on nuclear I have read during this entire episode. My compliments on a darn fine job. Thanks.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. NRC
Rockville, MD (by way of Austria at the moment)

Bu/1087

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Jaczko, Gregory; Doane, Margaret; Borchardt, Bill; Marshall, Michael
Subject: Re: Is amb davies ok

Yes. He said they were right on the mark.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Jaczko, Gregory
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:47:25 2011
Subject: Fw: Is amb davies ok

Can you get this answered for me

----- Original Message -----

From: Jaczko, Gregory
To: Doane, Margaret; Borchardt, Bill; Marshall, Michael
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:37:10 2011
Subject: Is amb davies ok

With the statements of support to iaea june 20 mtg that are in my talking points

Bu/1088

From: Coggins, Angela
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Fyi...
Angela Coggins
Policy Director
Office of Chairman Gregory B Jaczko
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
angela.coggins@nrc.gov/301-415-1828

From: Coggins, Angela
To: Jaczko, Gregory
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:55:57 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Sir, this is what I got back when I originally asked the question about amb daves...
Angela Coggins
Policy Director
Office of Chairman Gregory B Jaczko
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
angela.coggins@nrc.gov/301-415-1828

From: Schwartzman, Jennifer
To: Doane, Margaret; Jones, Andrea; Coggins, Angela; Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Sat Apr 02 11:40:52 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

FYI - Amb Davies has already committed USG participation in June mtg.
Sent from an NRC Blackberry

From: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
To: Schwartzman, Jennifer
Sent: Sat Apr 02 11:37:21 2011
Subject: Re: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

The U.S. is definitely going to support it, and Ambo has already said that publicly, during the Technical Briefing when Amano announced it. Recall that is was the 5 Ambassadors here that pushed Amano to call for this in the first place.

As for who is going....Secretary Clinton for sure is not going, and highly unlikely Secretary Chu will come either. The cable, in reply to Amano did not indicate who, but Davies was thinking Chairman Jaczco would come.

Mark

From: Schwartzman, Jennifer <Jennifer.Schwartzman@nrc.gov>
To: Shaffer, Mark R
Sent: Sat Apr 02 17:07:27 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Bu/1089

Can you help me confirm this
Sent from an NRC Blackberry

From: Doane, Margaret
To: Coggins, Angela; Loyd, Susan; Batkin, Joshua; Schwartzman, Jennifer
Sent: Sat Apr 02 10:41:44 2011
Subject: Re: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Jen can you confirm, or I can do it with Davies. Will double check. I think only question is who will go-Clinton and Jaczko in latest cables.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

From: Coggins, Angela
To: Doane, Margaret; Loyd, Susan; Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Sat Apr 02 09:48:32 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Margie, is the U.S. Govt ready to support Amano's June conference? I don't want him getting out ahead of the U.S.
Angela Coggins
Policy Director
Office of Chairman Gregory B Jaczko
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
angela.coggins@nrc.gov/301-415-1828

From: Susan Loyd <(b)(6)>
To: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Loyd, Susan; Bruckner, Eliot; Doane, Margaret; Marshall, Michael; Jones, Andrea; Warren, Roberta; Coggins, Angela; Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Sat Apr 02 09:33:03 2011
Subject: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Here are clean copies of the text and bullets. The paragraph that is in question is in the middle, regarding the 50-mile evacuation decision. I will leave that up to you to discuss with the Chairman and decide if you want to delete it or not. There are several sentences that are involved. This is about 11 minutes, at his usual speaking speed.

Eliot - I will copy the new text version into the body of an email and send to you. Thanks everyone!
Susan

PREPARED REMARKS FOR CNS MONDAY MEETING

I would like to reiterate my condolences to all those who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Our hearts go out to all who have been dealing with the aftermath of these natural disasters, and we are mindful of the long and difficult road they will face in recovering. We know that the people of Japan are resilient and strong, and we have every confidence that they will come through this terrible time and move forward, with resolve, to rebuild their vibrant country.

I made a brief visit to Japan last week. I wanted to convey a message of support and cooperation to our Japanese counterparts there and to assess the ongoing situation. I also met with senior Japanese government and TEPCO officials, and consulted with a team of experts from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission who went to Japan as part of our assistance effort.

NRC Response to Japan Events

I'd like to take a few minutes to address the response of the NRC to the tragic events in Japan, and then to briefly describe how we plan to proceed.

On Friday, March 11, when the earthquake and tsunami struck, the NRC's headquarters Operations Center began operating on a 24-hour basis to monitor and analyze events at nuclear power plants in Japan. At the request of the Japanese government, and through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the NRC sent a team of its technical experts to provide on-the-ground support, and we have been in continual contact with them since that time. And, within the United States, the NRC has been working closely with other Federal agencies as part of our government's response to the situation.

Shortly after 4:00 AM (Washington, DC time) on Friday, March 11th, the NRC Emergency Operations Center made the first telephone call to inform NRC management of the

earthquake and the potential impact on U.S. plants. We went into monitoring mode at our Emergency Operations Center, and the NRC's initial focus was on the possible impacts of the tsunami on U.S. plants and radioactive materials on the West Coast, and in Hawaii, Alaska, and U.S. Territories in the Pacific.

We were in communication with our licensees and our resident inspectors at Diablo Canyon Power Plant and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California, and the Radiation Control Program Directors for California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii.

On that same day, we began interactions with our Japanese regulatory counterparts and dispatched two experts to Japan to help at the embassy in Tokyo.

By Monday, March 14, we had dispatched a total of 11 NRC staff to Japan. We have subsequently rotated in additional staff to continue on-the-ground assistance in Japan. The areas of focus for this team are: 1) to assist the Japanese government and respond to requests from our Japanese regulatory counterparts; 2) to support the U.S. Ambassador and the U.S. government assistance effort.

On Wednesday, March 16, we collaborated with other U.S. government agencies and decided to advise American citizens to evacuate within a 50-mile range around the plant. We believed this decision was a prudent course of action, and would be consistent with what we would do in a similar situation in the United States. This evacuation range was predicated on the information that we had available at the time, which indicated the possibility that reactor cores and spent fuel pools may have been compromised.

We have been working with an extensive range of stakeholders regarding the Japan situation, including the White House, Congressional staff, our state regulatory counterparts, a number of other federal agencies, and the international regulatory bodies around the world.

Steps Already Taken

The NRC's program of continuous improvement in the future will include lessons learned from the events in Japan. We already have begun enhancing inspection activities through temporary instructions to our inspection staff, including the resident inspectors and the inspectors in our four Regional offices.

We've also issued an information notice to licensees to make them aware of activities they should undertake to verify that their capabilities to mitigate conditions due to severe accidents—including the loss of significant operational and safety systems—are in effect and operational. Specific conditions include a total loss of electric power, flooding, and damage from seismic events.

On their own initiative, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) issued a Level I Event Report (highest level) to its members on March 15, identifying four actions requiring written responses. Those include walkdowns and verifications of capabilities to address large fires and explosions; severe accident management guidelines; mitigation of station blackout conditions; internal and external flooding, and fire and flooding events that could be impacted by a concurrent seismic event.

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On March 21, my fellow Commissioners and I established a senior level task force to conduct a comprehensive review of our processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make improvements to our regulatory system.

This review will be conducted in a short-term and a longer-term timeframe. The short-term review has already begun, and will identify potential or preliminary near-term operational or regulatory issues. A longer-term review will begin as soon as we have sufficient information from Japan. That review will be completed in six months from the beginning of the evaluation. The task force's reports will be publicly available.

The task force will evaluate all technical and policy issues related to the event to identify additional potential research, generic issues, changes to the reactor oversight process, rulemakings, and adjustments to the regulatory framework that should be pursued by the NRC. We also expect to evaluate issues that may involve multiple U.S. Government agencies, such as emergency preparedness. We will seek input from all key stakeholders during this process. Based on what we learn in our review, we will take all of the appropriate actions that are necessary to ensure the continuing safety of the American people.

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TALKING POINTS FOR CNS MONDAY MEETING RE: JAPAN

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- I appreciate the opportunity to address you this evening.

From: Wald, Matthew <mattwald@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: You in Japan?

Thanks, Eliot.

Matthew L. Wald
Washington Bureau
The New York Times
1627 Eye St NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
202-862-0363
cell: (b)(6)
fax: 202-318-0057

<http://www.nytimes.com/info/nuclear-energy/>
twitter: mattwaldnyt

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Wald, Matthew
Subject: Re: You in Japan?

In Vienna at IAEA/CNS listening to GOJ explain what they know abt reactors. Unsure re navy. Perhaps beth can track down on deep background.

Can tell you nrc engineers dreamed up potential pumping device to raise seawater (or water) to reactor level. It was drawn as a crude sketch and given to bechtel which did formal design, had it built in austrailia and flown in by aussie AF. Beth can help there and give you bechtel contact and #.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Wald, Matthew <mattwald@nytimes.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:50:29 2011
Subject: You in Japan?

A utility company engineer who was in close contact with some of the NRC folks who man the emergency center tells me that in the hours after the tsunami, the NRC engineers told Tepco that it would need diesel-driven pumps, fire hoses and portable diesel generators, and that all of these were available from a US Navy base in Japan, which would deliver them within hours, if asked. But Tepco didn't ask.
Can you share anything about this?

Bu/1090

--- Matt

Matthew L. Wald
Washington Bureau
The New York Times
1627 Eye St NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
202-862-0363
cell: (b)(6)
fax: 202-318-0057

<http://www.nytimes.com/info/nuclear-energy/>

twitter: mattwaldnyt

From: E&E Publishing, LLC <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: April 4 -- Greenwire is ready



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GREENWIRE -- MON., APRIL 4, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **CLIMATE:** Conservative group drafts, promotes anti-EPA bills in state legislatures

A Virginia state lawmaker caused a stir in February when he admitted that his resolution declaring U.S. EPA's effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions a "regulatory train wreck" was written by the coal industry. Republican Delegate Will Morefield's resolution said EPA regulations would have potentially "devastating consequences," called for a "comprehensive study" of their impact on the economy and urged Congress to place a two-year moratorium on new air pollution regulations.

TOP STORIES

2. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Salazar denies reports of BP permit talks
3. **MINING:** Judges leaning toward Massey in Upper Big Branch case
4. **DRINKING WATER:** Utilities failed to alert public to presence of likely carcinogen, group says

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Critics zero in on DOE projects, urge moratorium on new reactors
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Contaminated water to be dumped into the ocean
7. **NUCLEAR:** GE head defends industry
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Int'l regulators undertake 'unprecedented' review of industry
9. **SOLID WASTE:** Japan disaster leaves tons of trash -- and dilemmas about what to do with it

POLITICS

Bu/1091

10. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** Wis. among states applying for Fla.'s discarded funds

ENERGY

11. **ENERGY MARKETS:** N.Y. officials, grid operator vow to fight FERC power decision
12. **COAL:** World Bank to decrease funding for new power plants
13. **NATURAL GAS:** Utah conservation groups reach deal with drilling company
14. **OIL AND GAS:** Abandoned wells are a growing problem as drilling increases
15. **PIPELINES:** LaHood cracks down on safety with new campaign

FEDERAL AGENCIES

16. **INTERIOR:** IG finds no 'leaderless malaise' at Nat'l Bison Range
17. **EPA:** Watchdog groups bash Office of Civil Rights, despite Jackson's praise

BUSINESS

18. **COAL:** Alpha moves closer to \$7B Massey buyout

TRANSPORTATION

19. **AUTOS:** Federal green fleet mandate won't apply to security vehicles

AIR AND WATER

20. **MINING:** EPA delays final guidance for mountaintop water-pollution permits
21. **DRINKING WATER:** GAO decries CDC analysis of D.C. lead contamination

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

22. **ENERGY POLICY:** Third Way's Freed discusses administration's new direction

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 12:42 PM
To: 'GavrilovicM@cbsnews.com'
Subject: Re: 60 Minutes/Update?

I am in austria at an IAEA meeting. Our role remains the same. We can talk next week.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Gavrilovic, Maria <GavrilovicM@cbsnews.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:32:17 2011
Subject: 60 Minutes/Update?

Hi Eliot,

I wanted to touch base with you to see if anything has changed since we last spoke. We're still in the research phase of our story and figuring out what angle to pursue. What is the latest on your front? Has the NRC's role changed with respect to Japan? Are you doing anything differently?

Feel free to email or call me — (b)(6)

Maria

BU/1092

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Dorman, Dan
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Blog entry

Dan – I forwarded this to Eliot, who is now in Europe. This isn't exactly what we were looking for. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Holly

From: Dorman, Dan
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:04 AM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: Fw: Blog entry

Holly,

Please find my input attached. This has already been cleared by the press office at the embassy.

Be advised that the embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission has requested to use it as a guest blogger on his blog on the embassy's website as well. He gets about 40,000 hits a week and about 75 percent are Japanese; he sees this entry as a positive outreach both on the efforts of the Japanese and on our supporting role. He would like to post it by the end of the week.

Thanks

Dan

From: Dorman, Dan
To: Dorman, Dan
Sent: Fri Apr 01 22:18:25 2011
Subject: Blog entry

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 12:20 PM
To: Emche, Danielle
Subject: speech text attached
Attachments: Speech for Monday Night (2) -TEXT.docx

**REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO
SIDE EVENT ON FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI ACCIDENT
5TH REVIEW MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY
APRIL 4, 2011
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

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From: laura.j.brown@faa.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:51 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Looks like you've been busy

Sorry we didn't get a chance to talk (b)(6) Happy travels!

Laura J. Brown
Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Public Affairs
202-267-3455 W
(b)(6) C

From: "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Laura J Brown/AWA/FAA@FAA
Date: 04/04/2011 11:13 AM
Subject: Looks like you've been busy

I am up to my backside in radioactive stuff. I'm getting stuck on the dias behind our chairman during a 2-hour huge international presentation by the japanese and us on the reactor snafu.

(b)(6)

Good news, there will be a followon meeting to this one in June, in vienna, and I will probably get to go because of major media interest.

(b)(6)

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1094

From: E.Fritz@iaea.org
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:26 AM
To: R.Ayache@iaea.org; R.Morgart@iaea.org; Brenner, Eliot
Cc: F.Klimscha@iaea.org
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED
Attachments: image003.jpg

its the quality that counts, not the quantity ... :-)

From: AYACHE, Rabih
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:22
To: FRITZ, Eva; MORGART, Ruth Ellen; 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

:)

the bright side: only 6 hours left of this Monday

From: FRITZ, Eva
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:20
To: MORGART, Ruth Ellen; AYACHE, Rabih; 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

:~))) we love to hear that!!!

From: MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:19
To: AYACHE, Rabih; 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances; FRITZ, Eva
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

Many Thanks Rabih—you're a prince!

Kind regards,
Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6) (Mobile)

Bu/1095

r.morgart@iaea.org



From: AYACHE, Rabih
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:17
To: 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances; FRITZ, Eva; MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

No problem. I'll replace the original.
Regards,
Rabih

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:15
To: Brenner, Eliot; MORGART, Ruth Ellen; FRITZ, Eva; AYACHE, Rabih
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED
Importance: High

updated slides, hope we are not too late and apologize for having to make a revision.

eliot

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:04 AM
To: R.Morgart@iaea.org; E.Fritz@iaea.org; R.Ayache@iaea.org
Cc: F.Klimscha@iaea.org
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- minor change coming

in about 10 minutes. sorry, he wants to add one bit of detail to a slide. we will work as fast as we can.

eliot

From: R.Morgart@iaea.org [R.Morgart@iaea.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:27 AM
To: E.Fritz@iaea.org; R.Ayache@iaea.org
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; F.Klimscha@iaea.org
Subject: FW: jaczko slides

Dear Eva/ Rabih,

Please find attached the US presentation to coincide with Chairman Jaczko's speech please copy for general distribution as with the other presentations for the Side Event meeting.

Kind regards,

Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6)

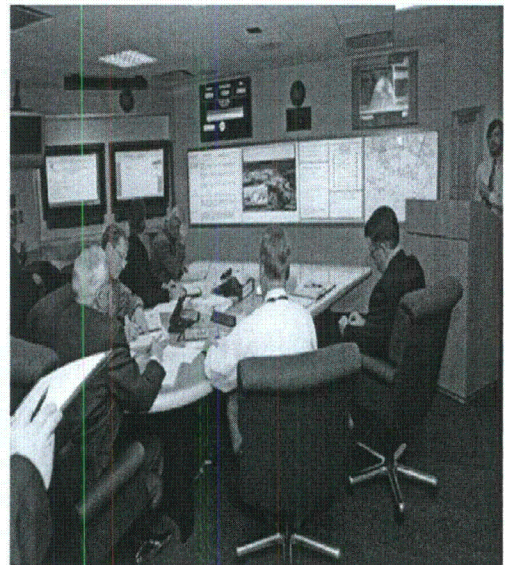
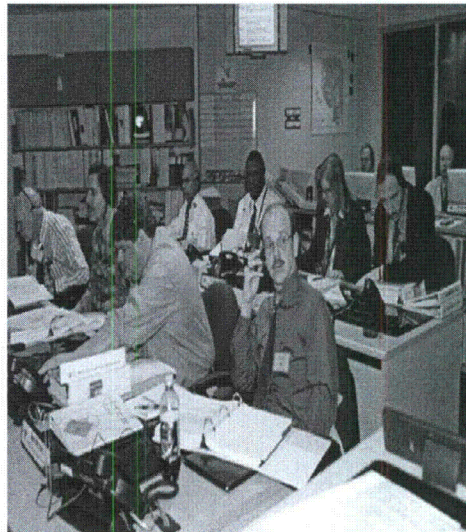
 (Mobile)
r.morgart@iaea.org

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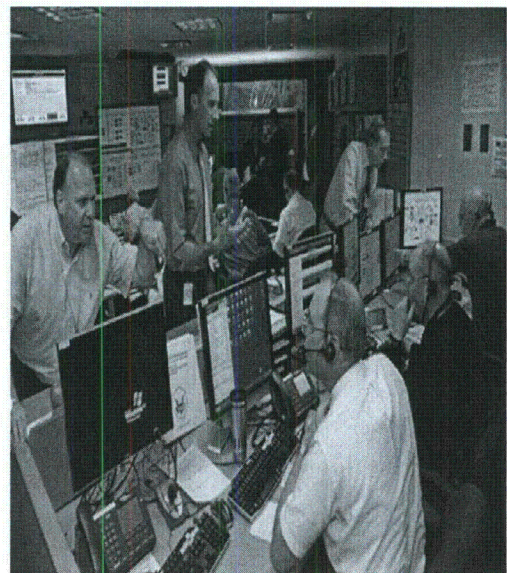


NRC Initial Response

- Began 24-Hour Monitoring and Analysis



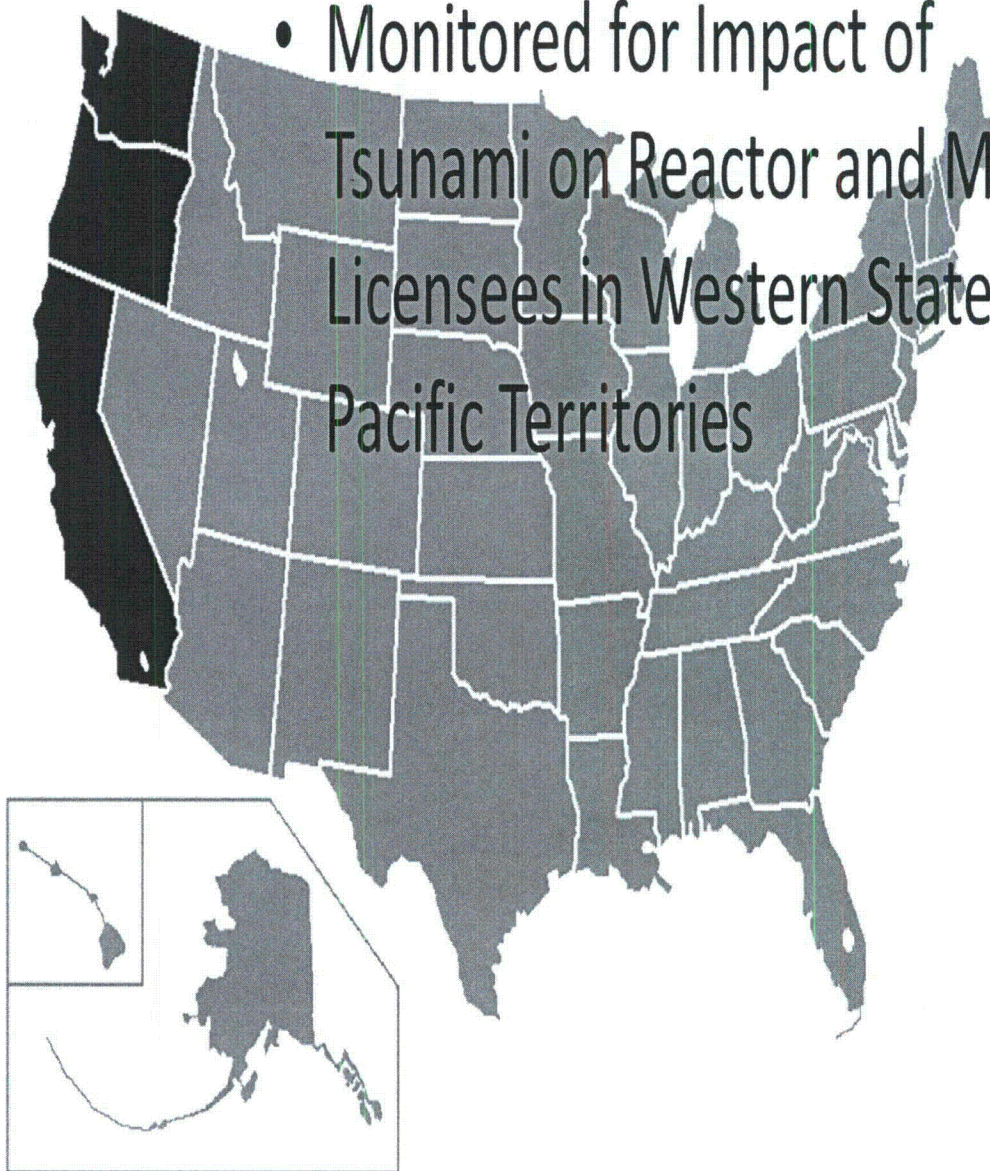
- Sent NRC Team to Offer Expert Advice





NRC Initial Response

- Monitored for Impact of Tsunami on Reactor and Material Licensees in Western States and Pacific Territories





US Government Coordination

- Coordinate Technical Advice to Japan
- Coordinate Technical Support to Japan
- Advise U.S. Ambassador

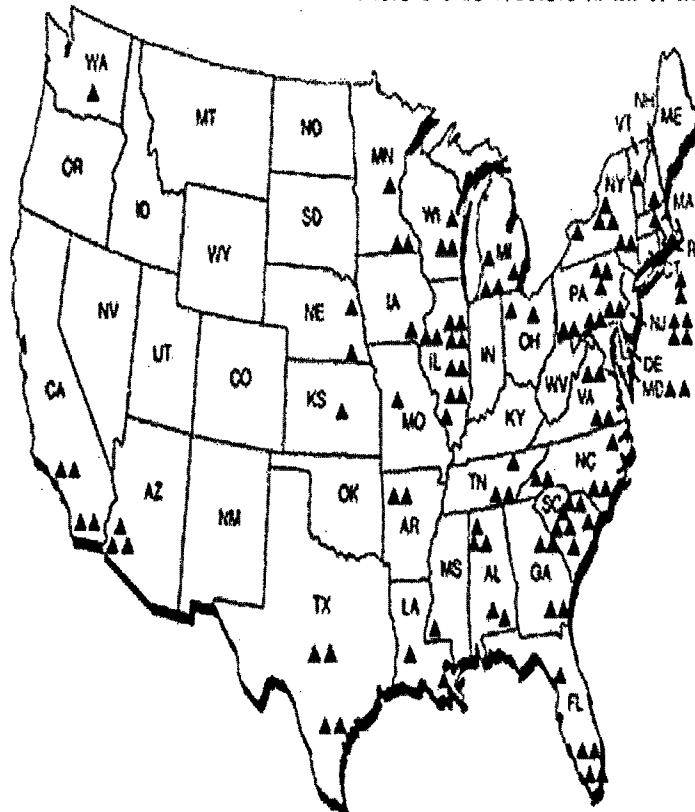


NRC Ongoing Activities

- Informed NRC Reactor Licensees
 - Verify Capabilities to Mitigate Conditions Due to Severe Accidents

- Inspection of NRC Reactor Licensees Preparedness

Operating nuclear power plants in the United States.
There are no reactors in AK or HI.





NRC Planned Activities

- 90-Day Near-Term Review
 - Evaluate currently available technical and operational information from the events
 - Identify potential or preliminary near term/immediate operational or regulatory issue
 - Develop recommendations, as appropriate, for potential changes



NRC Planned Activities

- Long-Term Systematic and Methodical Review
(6 Months After 90-Day Review)
 - Compile specific information on the sequence of events and the status of equipment during the duration of the event.
 - Evaluate all technical and policy issues related to the event to identify potential research, generic issues, changes to the reactor oversight process, rulemakings, and adjustments to the regulatory framework

To:

Nieh, Ho

Ho: I cobbled this together last night.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200

BU/1096

C: (b)(6)

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Blogs

1 new result for Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Thanks to Fukushima light shed on U.S. nuclear facility located on ...

By Russ Wellen

On Friday, President Barack Obama asked the independent **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** to review the safety of American nuclear power plants. . . . At Los Alamos National Laboratory, nuclear safety issues have been complicated with ...

Scholars and Rogues - <http://www.scholarsandrogues.com/>

Tip: Use site restrict in your query to search within a site (site:nytimes.com or site:.edu). [Learn more.](#)

[Remove](#) this alert.
[Create](#) another alert.
[Manage](#) your alerts.

From: R.Morgart@iaea.org
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:21 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: jaczko slides
Attachments: image003.jpg

Like they say, never argue with anyone who buys ink by the barrel and paper by the ton...or bandwidth in this case.

Kind regards,
Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6) (Mobile)
r.morgart@iaea.org



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 16:18
To: MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Subject: RE: jaczko slides

ok, go ahead. i would never want to be viewed as uncooperative with the ink- and electron-stained wretches.
eliot

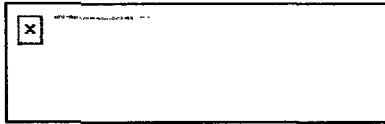
From: R.Morgart@iaea.org [R.Morgart@iaea.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:14 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: jaczko slides

They'll pull quotes, too. I just don't want to see the US as not cooperative in this venture. All others are providing everything to both events. I'd prefer to distribute rather than not in this case.

Kind regards,
Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Bu/1098

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)
(b)(6) (Mobile)
r.morgart@iaea.org



From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 16:10
To: MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Subject: RE: jaczko slides

i didn't see the need to give these to the reporters. if you think they will be useful, go ahead, but i my intent was for them to go to member states and let reporters pull quotes from the text of his remarks.

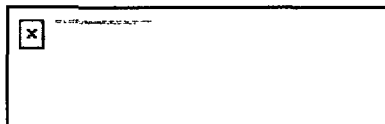
eliot

From: R.Morgart@iaea.org [R.Morgart@iaea.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:08 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: shaffermr@state.gov
Subject: RE: jaczko slides

Thanks, Eliot— not sure I understand your point with the media. I will, however, indicate to conference services to distribute “only” to our Member States.

Kind regards,
Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)
(b)(6) (Mobile)
r.morgart@iaea.org



From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 16:03
To: MORGART, Ruth Ellen

Cc: shaffermr@state.gov
Subject: jaczko slides

are attached. they are for IAEA use with his presentation, but I do not want them out to the media so i can force them to work off the text. thanks.

eliot

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:18 AM
To: Elizabeth Hayden
Subject: out of circulation

fyi, from 1230-330 i am going to be on the platform at the IAEA group immediately behind the chairman, and then in the subsequent press event. i will be unable to regularly check my emails. if there is something urgent, send me an email and call my cell. i will hear it ring, but i will not answer, then i can try to serruptitiously look at the blackberry when possible.

eliot

Bu/1099

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Press Brief Read-out

Thanks, Eliot. Journalists have asked to make sure he will be there this evening or if not, if he will be available tomorrow. So there is definitely interest. I think tonight will be enough, but will of course let you know if there is demand for "more Jaczko".

Jennifer

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:07 PM
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J; Shaffer, Mark R
Cc: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; Davies, Glyn T; Wood, Robert A; Scheland, Mark DL; Cooper, Nathan J
Subject: RE: Press Brief Read-out

(b)(5)

He is, fyi, comfortable to limiting his media to this evening's event, though i told him i reserved the right to stick him outside after the US report tomorrow if there were something that needed repeating or clarifying.

Eliot

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:56 AM
To: Shaffer, Mark R; Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; Davies, Glyn T; Wood, Robert A; Scheland, Mark DL; Cooper, Nathan J
Subject: FW: Press Brief Read-out

Eliot/Mark – Wolfgang's notes from Amano's press briefing below. The briefing began with Public Outreach staff noting tonight's press avail following the Fukushima side event, with the expected participation of all participants from the side event. I've highlighted Qs that represent themes I think likely to come up for the group tonight, namely:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Jennifer

International Atomic Energy Agency

Director General Amano

Press Briefing

April 4, 2011

14:30

Good afternoon etc. Today I attended the CNS meeting. This highly technical meeting, but I wanted to make some points. This is not an IAEA meeting, but the CNS meeting. The membership is 72 countries. A very different forum compared to the IAEA.

In my opening statement I said that situation at Fuk. Daichi remains serious, enormous impact on nuclear power, million people worry about safety, must taken seriously, cannot take business as usual approach.

We need to overcome crisis and begin process of reflection and evaluation. This meeting provides first possibility to do so.

It is clear that more needs to be done to strengthen safety to reduce significantly future accident. Full transparency must be provided.

20th to 24th conference, Ministerial, broad range of issues, improving protection of Nuclear Power Plants against power blackouts and improve spent fuel safety. Some countries have announced reviews of their plants.

Basic elements behind growing interests in nuclear power have not changed as a result of the accident. Global energy demand, concerns about climate change, volatile fuel prices, energy supply will continue to exist. IAEA will coordinate closely with newcomers and countries already using nuclear energy.

Through a review process the accident safety regulations and overall safety culture will be strengthened.

Q&A

Ann McLaughlin, Platts, isn't the fact that only 17 years after convention went in force, there is a serious accident, isn't this an indication that peer review concept failed and that more aggressive peer review should be introduced or other measures taken

Amano, parties have done everything to strengthen nuclear safety, but it was not sufficient. We cannot say it was the problem of the convention, but it is clear, that what has been done was not sufficient. Therefore we need to learn a lesson and strengthen nuclear safety. This is why I say we cannot return to business as usual. Whether convention needs to be amended or not, is premature

Belgium radio, past week has been some criticism on IAEA, too late, communication too bad, please comment.

Amano, this aspect should be addressed and we are already doing so. In the beginning there was some difficulty in information flow from Japan. I went to JP, I talked to Prime Minister, asked to improve information. We have people in JP to improve communications. After that we have experienced better flow of information and we have been trying to improve as much as possible. In the future we need to take lessons of

what happened, we have a joint plan which we need to examine, including whether flow of information was appropriate or not. This is also one of the areas the Ministerial Conference will take up. We will have a preliminary assessment of what we have to do.

Nikkei, I understand from Media reports that today JP government and Tepco have decided to release radioactive water into the sea. Do you have a comment?

Amano, I have read press reports, according to these reports some water is stored in the tank, but in order to create space for more contaminated water, less contaminated water will be released. I have read this in the newspaper and this is not a confirmed information. Asks Flory, **Flory** confirms it is not confirmed. **Amano** continues we try to verify this from the JP counterpart or from other parts and then share it with other countries or organization

Freund, ORF, I am a little surprised that you get information from JP media when you told us some minutes ago you have specialists on site. Are they not telling you what's going on?

Amano, we don't have these people on site, we have them in Japan. This is a two way process, we have to verify information. The speed is maybe not the most important thing. The value of information is the confirmed information that can be used reliably. We continue to aim to provide as much as possible verified information before passing judgment.

China Central Television, just now you talked about the information you have. More than 3 weeks after the accident, where do you feel weak spots in the IAEA remains, where could the IAEA be more forceful. And on a more general level, after this accident, can we say that we are at all able to handle nuclear power ever reliably?

Amano, in the beginning information was rather limited, now we have information from various sources, lots of organizations and Agencies. Min. of Agriculture, Min. education (environm.) and all information is supposed to be centralized. Please be aware, that this is a lot of information. We have much more information now.

China Central TV, you have experts in JP, suggesting in one area outside the evacuation zone was fairly high, but their decision was not implemented. Should the IAEA be given a more powerful role?

Amano, we have independent data, and JP gov also collecting information. Measurement by JP was higher than the level we have in our standards, so we reminded them to collect more information, and that some measurements exceeded our thresholds. I'd like to remind you that the measurements differ according to circumstances like environmental factors, weather, etc. and I understand they are collecting more samples. For the need or possibility to secure our nuclear power plants, that is the idea of the Ministerial in June. We will encourage thought about this accident. There are a lot of ways to improve in safety, but not only experts but also political leaders should contribute ideas.

I now got a Memo that NISA has now confirmed permission was given 10.000 tons of low level contaminated water to the sea.

Westall, Reuters, what is your reaction to that information? You have pointed out that IAEA is not nuclear safety watchdog, would you like the Agency to move in this direction? (ca. 19 mins in soundfile)

Amano, I don't know if we can become this, but I certainly wish, that the safety standards will become stronger, that we have more capabilities to ensure Member States on nuclear safety. On your question for comment, I don't know the level of contamination, this measure was taken to avoid high level contamination.

We have staff monitoring environment and sea environment. The measurement at the discharge point is quite high, but 30 km out, the level is much lower.

Oleksyn, AP, is there a date for when the experts will be able to travel to JP? Could this accident be avoided given the report to the CNS reported another incident.

Amano, the 2007 accident was much smaller. This time the earthquake was much bigger followed by a huge Tsunami. Retrospectively the measures taken by the operators were not sufficient to prevent this accident. Whether this can be prevented in the Future? I believe there are certainly ways to avoid a repetition of this accident. We need to think collectively, which is why we are preparing a ministerial meeting. We need to look closely into the technical possibilities. Now is not yet the time to have a clear answer.

Tonight the IAEA and Japan will have a side event to explain as much as possible the situation. For the technical issues I was not able to answer as much as I would like to, I hope I can follow up this evening.

14:52

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:05 AM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: RE: Blog post

i'm so prolific. thanks.

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:56 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Blog post

Top Managers to Lead Review Team

As promised, the NRC has put together a team to look at our regulations, programs and processes in light of the unfolding nuclear emergency in Japan. The team will produce a public report in about three months, which will include recommendations for ways to improve NRC's regulatory system.

The task force is led by Dr. Charles Miller, the head of the NRC office that oversees radiological materials and environmental management. He is joined by Daniel Dorman, deputy director of the office that oversees nuclear material safety; Jack Grobe, deputy director of the office that oversee nuclear reactor regulation; and Gary Holahan, deputy director of the office overseeing new reactors. Nathan Sanfilippo, a technical assistant for the Executive Director for Operations, and Amy Cabbage, a team leader in new reactors, round out the team.

Together, they offer almost 150 years of experience at the NRC.

The team is tasked with conducting a "near-term" review while also identifying topics to be included in a longer-term review. The near term will look closely at U.S. nuclear reactors, including their spent fuel pools, station "blackout" scenarios, events that could lead to a long loss of cooling and emergency preparedness.

The task force expects to offer recommendations for Commission consideration on whether we should require immediate enhancements at U.S. reactors.

Important dates: On May 12 and June 16 the task force plans to brief the Commission in public meetings on the status of the review, and to offer final recommendations in a public Commission meeting on July 19. We'll let you know more as we get closer to those dates.

The task force charter is available at: http://wba.nrc.gov:8080/ves/view_contents.jsp

Eliot Brenner
Public Affairs Director

BU/1101

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:21 AM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: Re: State/Embassy Fact Sheet

No concerns. Bechtel has spoken to a WSJ reporter about this and beth can talk about it.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: [REDACTED] (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Harrington, Holly
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 09:10:15 2011
Subject: State/Embassy Fact Sheet

Over the weekend, Eric Stahl, OIP, now in Japan, was working with the Embassy to compile a fact sheet on U.S. response. All the info supplied is fine with OPA, but one bullet may be of concern. This was submitted by Eric to State:

- NRC facilitated a DOD-Bechtel effort to provide pumps to the site. One train is currently at the site and we believe it is already operating. You could probably get a fuller and more accurate status update from DOD.

Do we have sensitivity about this? I don't believe there's been any mention by us of this project and do not know that this is how we'd want it announced. Please advise.

OPA will get a final review on the fact sheet today or tomorrow, but I wanted your input on this one bullet sooner.

Holly

Bu/1102

From: Ned Lundquist <lundquist989@cs.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:50 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Out of Office: JOTW 14-2011

I'm in Singapore chairing a conference on off shore patrol vessels.

I'm doing okay.

Looking for some good story ideas.

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:13 AM
To: 'lundquist989@cs.com'
Subject: Re: Out of Office: JOTW 14-2011

I am in vienna (not japan) at an iaea/convention on nuclear security meeting re japan. Not had a day off since march 11. My crisis comms background from the FAA really helped. This is a plane crash in slow motion and will be full employment for me for years. Might parlay this into a speech gig or two along the way.

How you doin'?

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Ned Lundquist <lundquist989@cs.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 07:01:11 2011
Subject: RE: Out of Office: JOTW 14-2011

Eliot,

What's the real scoop. Is there a story I should be helping you tell?

Ned

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:59 AM
To: Edward Lundquist
Subject: Out of Office: JOTW 14-2011

I will be out of the country until Thursday morning April 7. If you need immediate assistance please call 301-415-8200. I will be reading emails and can be reached by cell phone at (b)(6).

From: Power, Stephen <Stephen.Power@wsj.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:16 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Request for comment - WSJ

Thanks!

Sent using BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Power, Stephen
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>
Sent: Mon Apr 04 08:13:57 2011
Subject: RE: Request for comment - WSJ

I am in Vienna with the boss. I doubt that we would comment on a decision by a foreign government on how to handle its own crisis, but I will pass this on to Beth who is holding down the fort.

Eliot

From: Power, Stephen [Stephen.Power@wsj.com]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:01 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Request for comment - WSJ

Is it possible to get a comment from NRC on Tepco's decision to dump radioactive water in the ocean? Was the US gov't consulted on this?

I'm at (b)(6). Thanks.

SP

DJ Tepco to Release Radioactive Water into Ocean TOKYO (Dow Jones)--Tokyo Electric Power Co. (9501.TO), the operator of the quake-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, said Monday that it will release 11,500 tons of low-level radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean, as part of an effort to speed up the draining of the nuclear facility. The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, Japan's nuclear watchdog, endorsed the plan, saying it is "an inevitable measure." Under the plan, Tepco will release 10,000 tons of low-level radioactive water that has flooded a radioactive waste processing facility at the plant following the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11. Tepco wants to drain the facility and use it to store highly radioactive water currently in the basement of the turbine building at the plant's No. 2 reactor. Tepco will also release a total of 1,500 tons of water that has been collected underneath Reactors Nos. 5-6 through seepage. Such water is normally pumped out to prevent it from reaching the reactor buildings, but has been left to accumulate in the aftermath of the earthquake. -By Mitsuru Obe, Dow Jones Newswires; 813-6269-

2785;mitsuru.obe@dowjones.com (END) Dow Jones Newswires April 04, 2011 05:23 ET (09:23
GMT)_____

Sent using BlackBerry

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:10 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Monday, April 4, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Analysis: Budget fever leaves little time for action on EPA

LaHood to unveil pipeline safety initiative

MHSA says criminal probe won't delay mine explosion report

Obama links energy independence, economic growth

Obama formally launches re-election bid

IAEA chief says nuclear response improvements needed

Workers try to locate path of radiation leak in Japan

Bangkok climate meeting focuses on renewables

BP wants to restart drilling in the Gulf this summer

Jackson: History will punish GOP if it votes against climate rules

GOP budget pressure creates uncertainty for Obama conservation plan

Upton renews disputed claim that blocking EPA rules will help gas prices

GOP aims to cut more than \$4 trillion in spending with long-term budget plan

Obama relationship with environmentalists strained over defending EPA

NRC names veteran to oversee nuclear safety review

Presidential limo, law enforcement vehicles exempted from clean energy order

Despite Gulf spill, Transocean calls 2010 its best safety year

BU/1105

Chernobyl's cleanup holds many lesson for Japan

BP sells ARCO Aluminum unit to Japanese

China eyes Zambia minerals mining deal

Study cites Patagonia as evidence of rising oceans, global warming

Scientists weigh geo-engineering options to address climate change

Daybook: Upcoming events

Analysis: Budget fever leaves little time for action on EPA

By Edward Felker

The White House and lawmakers from both parties this week will continue to hammer home their commitment to lower gas prices, but the chances of real action remain remote.

President Barack Obama rolled out his latest energy plan last week and plans to keep at it in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

It is telling that he chose a time when jobs are slowly returning and pump prices have stabilized, for the moment, to reiterate his broad goals of cutting oil imports and expanding domestic oil production without saying exactly how to get there.

Meanwhile, Republicans in the Senate will continue angling to get a vote on their amendment to ban Environmental Protection Agency greenhouse gas regulations. House Republicans are also planning to bring their companion bill to the floor as soon as Tuesday for what should be easy passage.

It appeared by the end of last week, however, that the 2011 budget negotiations would overwhelm other business on Capitol Hill, with the EPA debate taking a back seat to larger discussions of cuts to short- and long-term spending.

The talks in the Senate over votes on the pending small business bill appeared to be less than urgent, with the EPA amendment and three Democratic alternatives caught behind other business.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said EPA votes could happen, but as with all things in the chamber, the outcome depends on a deal with Republicans to move to final passage on the broader bill. The lack of an agreement last week should be a warning light to Republicans that they may not get their EPA vote after all.

At the same time, any lingering fight over the anti-EPA "riders" in the House's 2011 budget is likely to end up as a sideshow when the final package is crafted. Obama sought mightily to squelch a report that he would agree to EPA

restrictions, and Reid by week's end called them non-starters.

Obama may still offer some minor accommodation of Republican environmental demands—but the real fight on EPA authority looks to be pushed back until after the budget crisis is resolved.

LaHood to unveil pipeline safety initiative

By The Associated Press

U.S. transportation officials are launching a program to repair and replace aging oil and gas pipelines across America to prevent potential catastrophic explosions such as recent deadly blasts in eastern Pennsylvania and California.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is scheduled to announce the initiative on Monday in Allentown, Pa., where the Feb. 9 pipeline explosion leveled homes and businesses and killed five people, including an elderly couple and a 4-month-old boy.

Last September, a 44-year-old gas transmission line ruptured in San Bruno, California, killing eight people, injuring dozens and leaving 55 homes inhabitable. Investigators said the pipe had numerous flawed welds. And in Philadelphia in January, a gas main explosion sent a 50-foot (15-meter) fireball into the sky, killing a utility worker, injuring six people and forcing dozens from their homes.

"People deserve to know that they can turn on the lights, the heat, or the stove without endangering their families and neighbors," LaHood said in a statement.

The government is calling on pipeline owners and operators to identify areas of high risk and accelerate critical repair and replacement work. The department plans new regulations to strengthen reporting and inspection requirements and making information about pipelines and the safety records of operators easily accessible to the public.

LaHood said he also plans to seek legislation to increase oversight of pipeline safety, including increasing maximum civil penalties for pipeline violations from \$100,000 per day to \$250,000 per day and from \$1 million to \$2.5 million for a series of violations.

Transportation officials say they plan an April 18 Pipeline Safety Forum at which state and industry officials and other parties are to discuss the problem.

The number of pipeline-related accidents resulting in serious injury or death has been cut nearly in half over the last two decades, but the recent accidents "have highlighted the need to address the nation's aging pipeline infrastructure."

MHSA says criminal probe won't delay mine explosion report

By The Associated Press

The head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration said Sunday a criminal probe into last year's deadly explosion at a West Virginia coal mine is not delaying the release of his agency's findings.

Joe Main said his agency's report into the deaths of 29 miners at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch mine will be released when MSHA's investigation is complete.

Main said a U.S. Department of Justice investigation is separate and independent of MSHA's review of the blast, which occurred last April 5.

West Virginia Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller said last week he was losing patience with how long it was taking MSHA to release its report.

Last month, MSHA announced it planned to hold a public meeting on its investigation in June.

Obama links energy independence, economic growth

By Darlene Superville

WASHINGTON (AP) — Linking economic growth and energy independence, President Barack Obama says shifting the country away from imported oil and toward cleaner forms of energy will help continue a trend that has led to 1.8 million new jobs in the past 13 months.

Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to promote his ideas for bringing down gasoline prices by decreasing U.S. dependence on foreign oil. A blueprint he outlined in a speech this week calls for increasing domestic oil exploration and production, making cars and trucks more energy efficient and building vehicles that run on alternative fuels or electricity.

Noting that the U.S. doesn't have enough oil reserves to meet its needs, he set a goal of reducing imports by one-third by 2025.

"By doing so, we're going to make our economy less vulnerable to wild swings in oil prices," Obama said. "We're going to use cleaner sources of energy that don't imperil our climate. And we're going to spark new products and businesses all over the country by tapping America's greatest renewable resource: our ingenuity."

The address was Obama's third this week on energy independence. Next Wednesday, he plans to visit Gamesa Technology Corp., a Philadelphia-area

maker of wind turbines, for a town-hall discussion with workers about building a clean energy economy.

Oil prices have been rising because of growing demand in China and continued instability in some oil-producing countries in the Middle East. That, in turn, has pushed gasoline prices to new highs. The national average for a gallon of gas hit \$3.619 on Friday, the highest price ever for this time of year, according to AAA and other sources. Prices have climbed 23.2 cents in the past month and more than 81 cents in the past year.

Obama said sparking new products and businesses during a transition away from imported oil will help create jobs. He spoke a day after the government reported that 230,000 private sector jobs were created in March, bringing the number of jobs created in the past 13 months to 1.8 million. The national unemployment rate also dipped to a two-year low of 8.8 percent last month.

Obama formally launches re-election bid

By The Associated Press

President Barack Obama formally launched his re-election campaign Monday, urging grass-roots supporters central to his first campaign to mobilize again to protect the change he's brought in his first term.

The official start of his second White House bid comes 20 months before the November 2012 election.

"We're doing this now because the politics we believe in does not start with expensive TV ads or extravaganzas, but with you — with people organizing block-by-block, talking to neighbors, co-workers, and friends. And that kind of campaign takes time to build," Obama said in an e-mail to supporters.

He told them he was filing the necessary paperwork with the Federal Election Commission, and directed them to his new campaign website where a launch video featured snippets from supporters testifying about their continued backing of the Democrat.

IAEA chief says nuclear response improvements needed

By The Associated Press

The Japanese reactor crisis is a major challenge with enormous implications for nuclear power, the head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog said Monday.

Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, also stressed that the global community cannot take a "business as usual approach" and that lessons need to be learned from what happened at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant after it was hit by a massive tsunami and earthquake on March 11 and has been

oozing radiation into the environment ever since.

Amano spoke at the opening session of a meeting that has drawn representatives from dozens of countries to scrutinize safety at each other's power plants.

"I know you will agree with me that the crisis at Fukushima Dai-ichi has enormous implications for nuclear power and confronts all of us with a major challenge," Amano told delegates. "We cannot take a 'business as usual' approach."

The worries of millions of people around the world about the safety of nuclear energy "must be taken seriously," Amano said, and called for transparency and "rigorous adherence to the most robust international safety standards."

"It is clear that more needs to be done to strengthen the safety of nuclear power plants so that the risk of a future accident is significantly reduced," he said.

The IAEA would like to send an international expert mission as soon as possible to carry out an assessment of the accident, he added.

Amano said arrangements for putting international nuclear experts in touch with each other quickly after incidents like these need to be improved.

Workers try to locate path of radiation leak in Japan

By Mari Yamaguchi and Yuri Kageyama

TOKYO (AP) — Workers used a milky white dye Monday as they frantically tried to trace the path of highly radioactive water gushing near Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear plant and seeping into the ocean.

A crack in a maintenance pit found over the weekend was the latest confirmation that radioactivity continues to spill into the environment. The leak is a symptom of the primary difficulty at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex: Radioactive water is pooling around the plant and preventing workers from powering up cooling systems needed to stabilize dangerously vulnerable fuel rods.

Engineers have turned to a host of improvised and sometimes bizarre methods to tame the nuclear plant after it was crippled in Japan's magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami on March 11. Efforts over the weekend to clog the leak with a special polymer, sawdust and even shredded newspapers failed to halt the flow at a cracked concrete maintenance pit near the shoreline.

Suspecting they might be targeting the wrong channel to the pit, workers tried to see if they confirm the leak's pathway by dumping into the system several pounds (kilograms) of salts used to give bathwater a milky hue, plant operator

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Monday.

"There could be other possible passages that the water may be traveling. We must watch carefully and contain it as quickly as possible," said Hidehiko Nishiyama, a spokesman for the Nuclear Safety and Industrial Agency.

Radioactive water has pooled up throughout the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant because the operator has been forced to rely on makeshift ways of pumping water into plant — and allowing it to gush out wherever it can — to bring down temperatures and pressure in the reactor cores.

Government officials conceded Sunday that it will likely be several months before the cooling systems are completely restored. And even after that happens, there will be years of work ahead to clean up the area around the complex and figure out what to do with it.

Bangkok climate meeting focuses on renewables

By Denis D. Gray

BANGKOK (AP) — Citing the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, environmental activists at a U.N. meeting Sunday urged bolder steps to tap renewable energy so the world doesn't have to choose between the dangers of nuclear power and the ravages of climate change.

The call came at the opening of the six-day meeting aimed at implementing resolutions tabled at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in December.

Senior officials from governments and international organizations will already be playing some catch-up as deadlines — including one for the formation of a multibillion fund to help developing nations obtain clean-energy technology — have been missed along a roadmap leading to another climate summit at the end of the year in Durban, South Africa.

Before the Bangkok meeting, the U.N.'s top climate change official warned that a very significant global effort would be required to keep temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.8 F) above preindustrial levels — an agreement reached in Cancun between 193 countries, most of which are represented here.

Pledges to reduce emissions made by countries so far equal only 60 percent of what scientists say is required by 2020 to stay below the two-degrees threshold, Christiana Figueres said.

"We did the easy thing at Cancun and left the difficult ones for Durban. And the politics are getting more difficult this year than last," said Artur Runge-Metzger, a European Union climate change official, pointing to efforts by Republicans to

block some of President Barack Obama's efforts to reduce emissions.

"We need to see big strides forward before we get to Durban. We have to speed up the pace of work," Runge-Metzger said.

One of the issues taken up in Bangkok will be the formation of the Green Climate Fund, which is to aid developing nations obtain clean-energy technology. Governments have agreed to mobilize \$100 billion a year, starting in 2020, but a "transition committee" to design the fund, which was to have been formed last month, is still being discussed along with exactly how the money will be raised.

BP wants to restart drilling in the Gulf this summer

Just a year removed from the worst oil spill in history, BP is in talks with the Interior Department about permits that would allow it to resume deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico this summer, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

Jackson: History will punish GOP if it votes against climate rules

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson told Time magazine in a weekend interview that history will not be kind to Congress if lawmakers ignore science and vote to kill climate change rules.

[Read more](#)

GOP budget pressure creates uncertainty for Obama conservation plan

With the nation deep in debt and facing a long backlog of projects on its public lands, many Republicans are lining up against President Barack Obama's plan to double spending — to \$900 million next year — on a conservation fund that's used to buy property for the government, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

Upton renews disputed claim that blocking EPA rules will

help gas prices

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton renewed his claim over the weekend that blocking greenhouse gas rules will help combat rising gas prices – a contention that many Democrats dispute, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

GOP aims to cut more than \$4 trillion in spending with long-term budget plan

Republicans led by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., will present this week a 2012 budget proposal that would cut more than \$4 trillion from federal spending projected over the next decade and transform the Medicare health program for the elderly, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Obama relationship with environmentalists strained over defending EPA

President Barack Obama's relationship with environmentalists is strained over speculation whether he will really defend their biggest demand: the Environmental Protection Agency's climate change rules, Politico reports.

[Read more](#)

NRC names veteran to oversee nuclear safety review

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has named veteran agency official Charles Miller to lead the team conducting a White House-ordered review of U.S. reactor safety prompted by the crisis in Japan, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Presidential limo, law enforcement vehicles exempted from clean energy order

The presidential limo and some federal law enforcement vehicles will be exempted from President Barack Obama's directive that all federal vehicles purchased starting 2015 be advanced clean energy models, The Detroit News reports.

[Read more](#)

Despite Gulf spill, Transocean calls 2010 its best safety year

Transocean, the owner of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig that exploded, killed 11 workers and caused the Gulf oil spill, says in federal security filings that 2010 was "the best year in safety performance in our company's history," and top executives were granted bonuses as a result, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Chernobyl's cleanup holds many lesson for Japan

Twenty five years after the world's worst nuclear accident in Chernobyl, clean up work still continues in a stark reminder of what lies ahead for Japan, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

BP sells ARCO Aluminum unit to Japanese

BP announced Monday it is selling its ARCO Aluminum unit to a Japanese consortium for \$680 million, as it steps up a divestment program to recoup the costs of its Gulf of Mexico oil spill, The Wall Street Journal reports

[Read more](#)

China eyes Zambia minerals mining deal

China's Minmetals Resources Ltd. said Monday it intends to make a \$6.5 billion

offer for miner Equinox Minerals, whose assets are mainly in Zambia, in the most recent move by China to secure critical raw materials to feed its rapidly growing economy, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Study cites Patagonia as evidence of rising oceans, global warming

A study suggests that glacial melting in Patagonia has sped up by at least a factor of 10 in recent decades, dovetailing with temperature records suggesting that the Earth has been warming briskly since around 1980, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Scientists weigh geo-engineering options to address climate change

Scientists gathered in England have been exploring geo-engineering options such as dimming the skies with reflectors to address future climate change, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 4, Washington: House Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on China energy portfolio and impacts on the U.S. economy. 3:00 pm, Rayburn 2322.
- Apr. 4, Washington: National Association of State Energy Officials briefing, "State Energy Programs and Their Economic Impacts." 3:30 pm, Rayburn 2212.

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From: Jones, Andrea
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 5:07 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: QUESTION::> What will the Chairman talk about at this event

From: Shaffer, Mark R [ShafferMr@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:15 AM
To: R.Morgart@iaea.org; Jones, Andrea
Cc: j.lyons@iaea.org; F.Klimscha@iaea.org; z.stolberg@iaea.org; P.Woodhouse@iaea.org
Subject: Re: QUESTION::> What will the Chairman talk about at this event

Andrea - can you please get back directly with Ruth Morgart regarding the subject. Thanks.

From: R.Morgart@iaea.org <R.Morgart@iaea.org>
To: Shaffer, Mark R
Cc: J.Lyons@iaea.org <J.Lyons@iaea.org>; F.Klimscha@iaea.org <F.Klimscha@iaea.org>; Z.Stolberg@iaea.org <Z.Stolberg@iaea.org>; P.Woodhouse@iaea.org <P.Woodhouse@iaea.org>
Sent: Mon Apr 04 09:37:20 2011
Subject: QUESTION::> What will the Chairman talk about at this event

Dear Mark,

Can you please advise-- we need this information for the agenda and a copy of the presentation/speech ASAP. I will try to call you as well.

Kind regards,
Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security International Atomic Energy Agency Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
B0926

1400 Vienna, Austria

+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)

+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6)

(Mobile)

r.morgart@iaea.org<mailto:r.morgart@iaea.org>

[cid:image002.jpg@01CBF2AB.E4BB7150]

From: ShafferMr@state.gov [mailto:ShafferMr@state.gov]
Sent: Sunday, 03 April 2011 13:09
To: MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Subject: Re: 2011/Note 26- Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide"

Thanks Ruth!

From: R.Morgart@iaea.org <R.Morgart@iaea.org>

To: Shaffer, Mark R

Cc: G.Caruso@iaea.org <G.Caruso@iaea.org>

Sent: Sun Apr 03 12:41:26 2011

Subject: RE: 2011/Note 26- Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide"

Mark—also to note—the podium will have the correct name plate.

Kind regards,

Ruth Morgart

Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security International Atomic Energy Agency Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
B0926

1400 Vienna, Austria

+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)

+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6)

(Mobile)

r.morgart@iaea.org<mailto:r.morgart@iaea.org>

[cid:image003.jpg@01CBF2A6.CAD41260]

From: MORGART, Ruth Ellen

Sent: Sunday,03 April 2011 12:39

To: 'ShafferMr@state.gov'

Cc: CARUSO, Gustavo

Subject: FW: 2011/Note 26- Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide"

Dear Mark,

I had sent in the Chairman's name to my Admin to notify SECPMO when I received it from you, she emailed me in the Technical Briefing that the note verbale had gone out already. See my corrective action note below. Our apologies.

Kind regards,

Ruth Morgart

Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security International Atomic Energy Agency Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100
B0926

1400 Vienna, Austria

+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)

+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6)

(Mobile)

r.morgart@iaea.org<mailto:r.morgart@iaea.org>

[cid:image003.jpg@01CBF2A6.CAD41260]

From: MORGART, Ruth Ellen

Sent: Friday,01 April 2011 17:13

To: BALISI, Elizabeth M.

Cc: STOLBERG, Zsuzsanna; CARUSO, Gustavo; FLORY, Denis

Subject: RE: 2011/Note 26- Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide"

Dear Elizabeth,

Gustavo Caruso and I received word today at the Technical Briefing from Mark Schaffer, the NRC attache, that NRC Chairman Jazcko would be presenting for the USA.

From: STOLBERG, Zsuzsanna
Sent: Friday, 01 April 2011 16:35
To: KLIMSCHA, Frances; MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Subject: FW: 2011/Note 26- Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide"

FYI pls

From: BALISI, Elizabeth M.
Sent: Friday, 01 April 2011 16:28
To: DGO - P Staff; IAEA - DDGs; IAEA - Directors; MTCD - Conference Services Section
Cc: DGO - Secretaries; IAEA - DDGs Secretaries; IAEA - Directors Secretaries; SEC PMO - Contact Point
Subject: 2011/Note 26- Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide"

Dear Colleagues,

For your information, a Note by the Secretariat inviting Member States to a Side event on the "Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Initial Safety Measures Worldwide" is now available on GovAtom at: <http://www-govatom.iaea.org/DocumentDetails.asp?Language=English&Path=f:\websites\govatom\govatomdocs\secnot\2011\2011-note026\note26.doc>

The Note has been sent to all Member States by fax.

The details of the meeting are as follows:

Date:	Monday, 4 April 2011
Time:	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Place:	Boardroom A, M building

kind regards,
Betsy

Betsy Balisi
SEC-PMO
Room: A2864, Tel: 2600 21001
Fax: 2600 29108, E-mail: e.m.balisi@iaea.org<<mailto:e.m.balisi@iaea.org>>

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:36 AM
To: Marshall, Michael; Jones, Andrea; Doane, Margaret
Subject: Chairman's remarks

Michael: thanks. Consider it done.

Andrea: if you don't have them - I have them in my laptop. I am not quite sure how to hand them off to right iaea folks.
I will ask my counterpart as a hedge.

Let me know if you need me to do this or if you have it in hand.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Marshall, Michael
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:27 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Doane, Margaret; Jones, Andrea
Subject: Re: Chairman's evening presentation

Eliot,

The Chairman will be using the version Susan circulated. Go ahead and give them that version.

Michael

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Marshall, Michael
Sent: Mon Apr 04 04:07:10 2011
Subject: Chairman's evening presentation

Deputy DG Denis Flourey asks that the chairmans evening presentation be given to the iaea convention services as soon as possible for translation. I would also like to make copies to hand out to media at the press event afterwards and to have it electronically for posting on web back home. The chairman can summarize it extemporaneously in one to two minutes at the press event. I am sure mark shaffer can help you hook up with the convention services folks.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:20 AM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Camera

I will be using the camera in my blackberry to try to get some shots of jaczko at a special japan-related evening session and a subsequent press conference. (Translation: I left our camera in the room!) Should have it with me tomorrow for the US country presentation and can ship other pictures.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1109

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:59 AM
To: 'Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J'
Subject: RE: UNVIE News Clips April 4, 2011

Thanks. Very useful. If you remember, I could use them tomorrow morning to help me decide whether to send the boss out in front of the pack a second time ... after our presentation.

Eliot

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:36 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: UNVIE News Clips April 4, 2011

Good morning, Eliot. In case of interest ...

From: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 8:24 AM
To: Vienna UNVIE Americans - No Internet Addresses
Subject: UNVIE News Clips April 4, 2011

From: Wolfgang Bednarzek <vienna.usmission@gmail.com>
To: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
Sent: Mon Apr 04 08:19:27 2011
Subject: UNVIE News Clips April 4, 2011

TOPICS IN BRIEF

“Highly Radioactive Water” Pours Into Pacific From Damaged Nuclear Plant

The Washington Post (4/3, Nakamura, 572K) reports that “emergency crews poured concrete into the Fukushima nuclear power plant’s crack Saturday afternoon and again in the evening,” but “water washed it away.” They “are considering using a plastic polymer Sunday morning.” As they mull other ways to cut off the leak at its source, workers will install a silt fence -- screening usually used to prevent erosion in construction projects -- along the damaged sea wall that surrounds the plant, Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's nuclear and industrial safety agency said Monday.(CNN, 4/4)

Reactor Core Was Severely Damaged, Chu Says

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said Friday that roughly 70 percent of the core of one reactor at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan had suffered severe damage.

His assessment of the damage to Reactor No. 1 was the most specific yet from an American official on how close the plant came to a full meltdown after it was hit by a severe earthquake and massive tsunami on March 11.(NYT, Sanger, Jolly, 4/2)

Tokyo Electric Power Locates Bodies Of Two Workers Killed In Tsunami

Bu/1116

The AP (4/3, Nakashima, Yamaguchi) reports that Tokyo Electric Power said Saturday that two workers at its troubled nuclear power plant died in the March 11 tsunami, and their bodies were found Wednesday. The company said the bodies "had to be decontaminated, and the news of the two workers' deaths were "delayed out of consideration for the families."

Japan nuclear crisis to affect climate battle: EU (AFP)

Japan's nuclear crisis will have a clear impact on global efforts to fight climate change, the chief EU negotiator said Sunday as the latest round of UN talks got under way. Since an earthquake and tsunami on March 11 sparked an emergency at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant, in many of those countries doubts have now emerged about the nuclear option, he added. "I think there will be a lot of political considerations," Runge-Metzger said. "Certainly, this is something that has an impact on climate negotiations." (AFP, 4/3)

Scientists Using "Atomic Forensics" To Analyze Japanese Reactors From Afar

On its front page, the New York Times (4/3, A1, Broad, 950K) examines how "atomic forensics" developed after the crisis at Three Mile Island have allowed experts far from Japan to have perhaps "the clearest picture of what is happening" in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The Times says a French analysis "revealed far more about the condition of the plant's reactors than the Japanese have ever described," while "scientists in Europe and America also know from observing the explosions of hydrogen gas at the plant that the nuclear fuel rods had heated to very dangerous levels, and from radioactive plumes how far the rods had disintegrated." The Times says their analysis also shows Japan has so far "escaped the deadliest outcomes — a complete meltdown of the plant."

China Questioned On Lack Of Nuclear Emergency Plan

The Washington Post (4/3, Richburg, 572K) reports that China "has by far the world's most ambitious nuclear power program" with "13 nuclear facilities in operation, at least 26 under construction and more than 100 additional facilities planned" through an "investment of \$150 billion over the next decade," yet the country "has no obvious emergency preparedness plan." The Post says environmentalists, state media and bloggers are all asking questions about the lack of a plan. The Pos says "the Chinese government has not told citizens living near nuclear facilities what to do in case of a similar disaster" to Japan's, although "many people...live less than a quarter mile from nuclear facilities."

Syria: A Nuclear Plant Is Inspected, and Another Site Remains Off Limits

The United Nations atomic watchdog inspected a Syrian plant on Friday as part of a long-stalled investigation into suspected covert nuclear activity. An official of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna said the inspection of the Homs facility in western Syria was "being conducted as planned." (Reuters, 4/1)

Iran Central To Administration's Decisions During Mideast Upheaval

Under the headline "The Larger Game In The Middle East: Iran," the New York Times (4/3, WK1, Sanger, 950K) examines the Obama Administration "dominating calculus" on Iran and how "a rarely stated fact about the administration's responses to the uprisings" in the Middle East is "containing Iran's power remains their central goal." The Times looks at decisions across the region in the light, adding, "At the end of this era of upheaval, which the White House considers as sweeping as the changes that transformed Europe after the Berlin Wall fell, success or failure may well be judged by the question of whether Iran realizes its ambitions to become the region's most powerful force."

After Tehran Rebuke, Saudis Tell Iran To Mind Its Own Business

AFP (4/3) reports that "Saudi Arabia has urged Iran to mind its own business after a parliamentary panel in Tehran warned that Riyadh was 'playing with fire' by deploying troops in Bahrain." An unnamed Saudi official was quoted in the state news agency SPA of saying that Iran's remark "deliberately ignores Iran's interference in the region's affairs and its violation of the independence and sovereignty of the region" and ignored "the fact they have no right to violate Bahrain's sovereignty, or to stick their nose in the affairs of Gulf countries."

UAE Anti-terrorist Unit Takes Ship From Pirate

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CONTENT

OPINION ANALYSIS 4

Nuclear Power Is Safest Way To Make Electricity, According To Study (Brown, WP) 5

Factbox: Japan quake impact on energy, commodities and ports (Reuters) 8

Nuclear power is safest way to make electricity, according to study (WP) 10

Is nuclear energy worth the risk?(CNN) 14

JAPAN 16

Fence in Pacific to try to corral radiation coming from nuclear plant 16

Focus at Power Plant Turns to Water (WSJ) 18

Japanese nuclear plant continues to leak radioactive water into ocean(LAT) 21

Efforts to Plug Japanese Reactor Leak Seem to Fail (NYT) 23

Regulator Says Radioactive Water Leaking Into Ocean From Japanese Nuclear Plant (Tabuchi, Belson, NYT) 25

Radioactive Water Found Leaking Into Sea From Pit At Japan Nuclear Plant (Nakamura, WP) 26

Reactor Core Was Severely Damaged, US Official Says (Sanger, Jolly, NYT) 28

In Japan, evacuees direct anger at nuclear-plant owner Tokyo Electric Power Co.(WP) 29

Bodies Of 2 Missing Workers Found At Japanese Nuclear Plant (Belson, Tabuchi, NYT) 32

Tsunami Killed 2 Workers At Japan Nuclear Plant (Nakashima, Yamaguchi, AP) 34

Two Workers' Bodies Recovered At Fukushima Nuclear Plant (Makinen, Hall, LAT) 36

Engineers Fail To Seal Leak At Japan Nuke Plant (Nakashima, Yamaguchi, AP) 37

From Far Labs, A Vivid Picture Emerges Of Japan Crisis (Broad, NYT) 39

As Fukushima Fallout Circles The Globe, Nuclear Sleuths Sift It For Clues (Vastag, WP) 42

Japan's Dim Capital Faces Further Power Crunch (Nakashima, AP) 44

Japan's Nuclear Disaster Severs Town's Economic Lifeline, Setting Evacuees Adrift (Tabuchi, NYT) 46

Japan nuclear crisis to affect climate battle: EU (AFP) 49

Japan nuclear crisis to impact UN climate talks –EU (Reuters) 50

Nuclear plant owner under increasing heat in Japan (CNN) 52

CHINA 53

China Expanding Nuclear Power But Lacks Emergency Planning (Richburg, WP) 53

IRAN 55

Saudi Urges Iran To Keep Nose Out Of Gulf (AFP) 55

SYRIA 55

UN Nuclear Inspectors Visit Syria (AP) 55

Syria: A Nuclear Plant Is Inspected, and Another Site Remains Off Limits (Reuters) 56

CORRUPTION 56

Morocco Adopts Anti-corruption Plan: Official (AFP) 56

PIRACY 57

UAE Anti-terrorist Unit Takes Ship From Pirates (Hadid, AP) 57

UAE Special Forces Free Ship Hijacked By Pirates (AFP) 57



UNITED STATES MISSION TO
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA



DAILY PRESS REPORT



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Questions & Comments:

Wolfgang Bednarzek



UNVIE PRESS REPORT

TOPICS IN BRIEF	3
OPINION ANALYSIS	5
Nuclear Power Is Safest Way To Make Electricity, According To Study (Brown, WP)	5
Factbox: Japan quake impact on energy, commodities and ports (Reuters)	8
Nuclear power is safest way to make electricity, according to study (WP)	10
Is nuclear energy worth the risk?(CNN)	14
JAPAN	16
Fence in Pacific to try to corral radiation coming from nuclear plant	16
Focus at Power Plant Turns to Water (WSJ)	18
Japanese nuclear plant continues to leak radioactive water into ocean(LAT)	21
Efforts to Plug Japanese Reactor Leak Seem to Fail (NYT)	23
Regulator Says Radioactive Water Leaking Into Ocean From Japanese Nuclear Plant (Tabuchi, Belson, NYT)	25
Radioactive Water Found Leaking Into Sea From Pit At Japan Nuclear Plant (Nakamura, WP)	26
Reactor Core Was Severely Damaged, US Official Says (Sanger, Jolly, NYT)	28
In Japan, evacuees direct anger at nuclear-plant owner Tokyo Electric Power Co.(WP)	30
Bodies Of 2 Missing Workers Found At Japanese Nuclear Plant (Belson, Tabuchi, NYT)	32
Tsunami Killed 2 Workers At Japan Nuclear Plant (Nakashima, Yamaguchi, AP)	34
Two Workers' Bodies Recovered At Fukushima Nuclear Plant (Makinen, Hall, LAT)	36
Engineers Fail To Seal Leak At Japan Nuke Plant (Nakashima, Yamaguchi, AP)	37
From Far Labs, A Vivid Picture Emerges Of Japan Crisis (Broad, NYT)	39
As Fukushima Fallout Circles The Globe, Nuclear Sleuths Sift It For Clues (Vastag, WP)....	42
Japan's Dim Capital Faces Further Power Crunch (Nakashima, AP)	44
Japan's Nuclear Disaster Severs Town's Economic Lifeline, Setting Evacuees Adrift (Tabuchi, NYT)	46
Japan nuclear crisis to affect climate battle: EU (AFP)	49
Japan nuclear crisis to impact UN climate talks –EU (Reuters)	50
Nuclear plant owner under increasing heat in Japan (CNN)	52
CHINA	53
China Expanding Nuclear Power But Lacks Emergency Planning (Richburg, WP)	53
IRAN	55
Saudi Urges Iran To Keep Nose Out Of Gulf (AFP)	55
SYRIA	55
UN Nuclear Inspectors Visit Syria (AP)	55
Syria: A Nuclear Plant Is Inspected, and Another Site Remains Off Limits (Reuters)	56
CORRUPTION	56
Morocco Adopts Anti-corruption Plan: Official (AFP)	56
PIRACY	57
UAE Anti-terrorist Unit Takes Ship From Pirates (Hadid, AP)	57
UAE Special Forces Free Ship Hijacked By Pirates (AFP)	57

TOPICS IN BRIEF

“Highly Radioactive Water” Pours Into Pacific From Damaged Nuclear Plant

The Washington Post (4/3, Nakamura, 572K) reports that “emergency crews poured concrete into the Fukushima nuclear power plant’s crack Saturday afternoon and again in the evening,” but “water washed it away.” They “are considering using a plastic polymer Sunday morning.” As they mull other ways to cut off the leak at its source, workers will install a silt fence -- screening usually used to prevent erosion in construction projects -- along the damaged sea wall that surrounds the plant, Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's nuclear and industrial safety agency said Monday.(CNN, 4/4)

Reactor Core Was Severely Damaged, Chu Says

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said Friday that roughly 70 percent of the core of one reactor at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan had suffered severe damage.

His assessment of the damage to Reactor No. 1 was the most specific yet from an American official on how close the plant came to a full meltdown after it was hit by a severe earthquake and massive tsunami on March 11.(NYT, Sanger, Jolly, 4/2)

Tokyo Electric Power Locates Bodies Of Two Workers Killed In Tsunami

The AP (4/3, Nakashima, Yamaguchi) reports that Tokyo Electric Power said Saturday that two workers at its troubled nuclear power plant died in the March 11 tsunami, and their bodies were found Wednesday. The company said the bodies “had to be decontaminated, and the news of the two workers’ deaths were “delayed out of consideration for the families.”

Japan nuclear crisis to affect climate battle: EU (AFP)

Japan's nuclear crisis will have a clear impact on global efforts to fight climate change, the chief EU negotiator said Sunday as the latest round of UN talks got under way. Since an earthquake and tsunami on March 11 sparked an emergency at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant, in many of those countries doubts have now emerged about the nuclear option, he added. "I think there will be a lot of political considerations," Runge-Metzger said. "Certainly, this is something that has an impact on climate negotiations." (AFP, 4/3)

Scientists Using “Atomic Forensics” To Analyze Japanese Reactors From Afar

On its front page, the New York Times (4/3, A1, Broad, 950K) examines how “atomic forensics” developed after the crisis at Three Mile Island have allowed experts far from Japan to have perhaps “the clearest picture of what is happening” in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The Times says a French analysis “revealed far more about the condition of the plant’s reactors than the Japanese have ever described,” while “scientists in Europe and America also know from observing the explosions of hydrogen gas at the plant that the nuclear fuel rods had heated to very dangerous levels, and from radioactive plumes how far the rods had disintegrated.” The Times says their analysis also shows Japan has so far “escaped the deadliest outcomes — a complete meltdown of the plant.”

China Questioned On Lack Of Nuclear Emergency Plan

The Washington Post (4/3, Richburg, 572K) reports that China "has by far the world's most ambitious nuclear power program" with "13 nuclear facilities in operation, at least 26 under construction and more than 100 additional facilities planned" through an "investment of \$150 billion over the next decade," yet the country "has no obvious emergency preparedness plan." The Post says environmentalists, state media and bloggers are all asking questions about the lack of a plan. The Post says "the Chinese government has not told citizens living near nuclear facilities what to do in case of a similar disaster" to Japan's, although "many people...live less than a quarter mile from nuclear facilities."

Syria: A Nuclear Plant Is Inspected, and Another Site Remains Off Limits

The United Nations atomic watchdog inspected a Syrian plant on Friday as part of a long-stalled investigation into suspected covert nuclear activity. An official of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna said the inspection of the Homs facility in western Syria was "being conducted as planned." (Reuters, 4/1)

Iran Central To Administration's Decisions During Mideast Upheaval

Under the headline "The Larger Game In The Middle East: Iran," the New York Times (4/3, WK1, Sanger, 950K) examines the Obama Administration "dominating calculus" on Iran and how "a rarely stated fact about the administration's responses to the uprisings" in the Middle East is "containing Iran's power remains their central goal." The Times looks at decisions across the region in the light, adding, "At the end of this era of upheaval, which the White House considers as sweeping as the changes that transformed Europe after the Berlin Wall fell, success or failure may well be judged by the question of whether Iran realizes its ambitions to become the region's most powerful force."

After Tehran Rebuke, Saudis Tell Iran To Mind Its Own Business

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OPINION ANALYSIS

Nuclear Power Is Safest Way To Make Electricity, According To Study (Brown, WP)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Washington Post

By David Brown

Radioactive water is leaking into the sea, there's a little plutonium in the soil, and traces of nuclear fallout have been detected in places as far apart as Kuwait and Maryland. In a few parts of Japan, you're also not supposed to eat the broccoli or the beef.

The effects of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant grow by the week, creating a lengthening catalogue of worries and proving once again that nuclear power frightens people as few other technologies do.

But when the dead and sickened are added up, how dangerous is it really?

The partial meltdown in Japan has injured 23 people and exposed as many as 21 to levels of radiation higher than is considered safe to receive in one year. Two workers are still missing but are assumed to have been killed by the earthquake or tsunami, not the nuclear accident. No people in the "plume zone" outside the plant have been contaminated to a degree that is expected to affect their health, based on radiation readings so far.

In the months after the world's worst nuclear disaster, in Chernobyl in 1986, about 50 people died. In the next-biggest accident, at Three Mile Island in 1979, no one did.

History suggests that nuclear power rarely kills and causes little illness. That's also the conclusion engineers reach when they model scenarios for thousands of potential accidents.

Making electricity from nuclear power turns out to be far less damaging to human health than making it from coal, oil or even clean-burning natural gas, according to numerous analyses. That's even more true if the predicted effects of climate change are thrown in.

Compared with nuclear power, coal is responsible for five times as many worker deaths from accidents, 470 times as many deaths due to air pollution among members of the public, and more than 1,000 times as many cases of serious illness, according to a study of the health effects of electricity generation in Europe.

"The costs of fossil fuels come out quite high, while the costs for nuclear generally come out low," said Anil Markandya, an economist at the University of Bath in England and scientific director of the Basque Centre for Climate Change in Spain, who co-authored the study published in the *Lancet* in 2007.

Even in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi disaster, Markandya and many others who have done similar work can't imagine a situation — a realistic one, that is — in which the health cost of nuclear power would equal that of coal.

Or even come close.

The hidden costs

About half of the electricity in the United States is made with coal-fired plants and about one-fifth with nuclear power. Many experts think there is an urgent need to determine what role nuclear power should play in feeding America's energy-hungry future.

To inform that discussion, economists, engineers and epidemiologists have teamed up to determine the full economic, health, social and environmental consequences of generating electricity with various fuels. Most of this work has been done in Europe, where the acceptability of nuclear power, and the fraction of electricity generated with it, differs greatly among nations of the European Union.

The goal is to capture not only the costs reflected on a person's monthly utility bill but the many hidden ones borne by individuals, communities and governments. In this way, analysts seek out the "impact pathway" of each fuel — every effect it has, direct and indirect.

For power plants (and also hydroelectric dams and wind farms), this includes the land to site them; construction, operation and decommissioning costs; and the humans who are killed or injured along the way. That means accidents and black lung disease in coal miners; radiation exposure in uranium miners and millers; and deaths and burns in oil-rig fires.

The impact pathway also includes what happens to the public — collisions with coal trains; asthma, respiratory disease and heart attacks caused by smokestack soot and gases; and emissions' effects on agricultural production.

Health consequences are measured two ways.

Occupational deaths in mines, oil rigs or power plants are counted directly. Death and illness in the public is determined by epidemiological studies, such as ones estimating the fraction of hospital admissions for emphysema that can be attributed to air pollution. Those impacts are then given a monetary cost that is added to the price tag of a kilowatt hour of electricity. (The cost is the value of a life lost by premature death, or diminished by illness, that economists use in other analyses.)

The calculations can be very fine.

In "Full cost accounting for the life cycle of coal," published this year by a team of 12 researchers led by Paul R. Epstein of Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment, the ledger included .02 cents per kilowatt hour for mental retardation caused by mercury in coal-plant emissions.

Using similar methods, Markandya and his co-author in the Lancet study, Paul Wilkinson of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, found that in Europe coal is responsible for .12 deaths from accidents, 25 deaths from pollution and 225 cases of serious illness per terawatt (1,000 billion kilowatt) hour of electricity generated. In comparison, nuclear causes .02 accidental deaths, .05 pollution deaths and .22 cases of illness.

This human health cost is much higher in some parts of the world than others.

It's especially high in China, where three-quarters of the electricity is made by burning coal, mining accidents kill about 6,000 people a year, and hundreds of millions of people are affected by air pollution. In some inland cities, the economic cost to human health of making electricity from coal is as much as seven times higher than the cost of generating the electricity, according to a calculation by Stefan Hirschberg at the Paul Scherrer Institut in Switzerland, which has done energy system analysis for the European Commission.

Nuclear power's advantage over fossil fuels is even more dramatic when carbon dioxide emissions are considered.

Many experts think greenhouse gases are a future threat to health. Some say the threat is already here, and point to 30,000 heat-related deaths in Europe in August 2003 as evidence. Coal produces 1,290 grams of CO₂ per kilowatt hour in direct (smokestack) and indirect (mining, transport) emissions, while nuclear produces 30, according to the Lancet study.

Built into the calculations are the consequences of what are called "beyond-design" nuclear accidents — events similar to what is underway in Japan. However, there aren't enough big nuclear plant accidents to provide a statistically meaningful estimate of their frequency, effects and costs. According to a database compiled by the Paul Scherrer Institut, from 1970 to 2008 there were 1,686 accidents in the coal industry, 531 in the oil industry and 186 involving natural gas in which five or more people died. There was just one such nuclear accident — at Chernobyl 25 years ago this month.

To better estimate the potential impact of nuclear catastrophes, analysts break down plant operations into thousands of different actions and then estimate the probabilities of hypothetical accident sequences. Hirschberg and his colleagues used a Swiss nuclear plant to come up with such an estimate. They calculated that nuclear accidents in Europe can be expected to cost .007 lives per gigawatt year (1 million kilowatt years), compared with .12 lives for coal, .02 lives for oil and .06 for natural gas.

Radiation's toll

There is also much uncertainty about how many people might be harmed by a big nuclear accident.

At Chernobyl, two people died during the accident and 28 others died of radiation illness in the first four months afterward. (Some estimates of the early deaths put the number as high as 57).

Since then, there have been 6,800 cases of thyroid cancer in people who were children at the time of the accident, according to a recent report by the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, with the number still rising. As of 2005, only 15 were fatal.

To date, there is no clear increase in leukemia or other cancers, or deaths from non-cancer diseases. However, various expert groups estimate that 4,000 to 33,000 premature deaths might occur as a consequence of the accident.

In general, the hazards of radiation are less than most people think.

Since 1950, Japanese and American researchers have followed 120,000 residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the cities on which the United States dropped atomic bombs in 1945 to end World War II. Three-quarters of the people in the Life Span Study were exposed to the blasts; one-quarter were away at the time. The number of deaths attributable to the bombs is estimated by comparing survival in the two groups.

Through 2000, 42,304 of the people in the study had died. Of those deaths, 822 were "excess" — probably a result of the radiation.

Nuclear's 'dread factor'

Many critics of nuclear power say none of this truly accounts for the technology's hazards.

"To replace carbon pollution with radioactive pollution is not a healthy solution," said Epstein, the Harvard physician. "Even if the events are rare, what's happening now in Japan demonstrates how profound and long-lasting these impacts can be."

At a recent briefing by Physicians for Social Responsibility, David Richardson, an epidemiologist from the University of North Carolina, said that "the unsolved problems of long-term storage and its contribution to nuclear proliferation" are two reasons besides accidents that make nuclear power unacceptable.

Future accidents at storage sites are considered by energy analysts. But because modeling suggests they're improbable, they don't affect the calculations much. Mental-health effects of nuclear accidents are part of the calculations, too, but the doomsday fear of them and threat from nuclear proliferation are not.

"There is a kind of dread factor for nuclear which is very hard to quantify," Markandya said. He added after a pause, "In the end . . . if people feel really uncomfortable with nuclear power, then they ought to go against it."

Factbox: Japan quake impact on energy, commodities and ports (Reuters)

Sun, Apr 3 2011

TOKYO (Reuters) - The following is a roundup of the effect on the energy and commodities sector of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the northeast coast of Japan.

UTILITIES

- Japan warned that it could take months to stop radiation leaking from a nuclear plant crippled by a huge earthquake and tsunami three weeks ago.
- Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) found a crack in a concrete pit at its No. 2 reactor in the Fukushima Daiichi complex, generating readings of 1,000 millisieverts of radiation per hour in the air inside.
- Officials believe the crack may be one source of the radiation leaks that have hobbled efforts to control the six-reactor complex and sent radiation levels in the sea to 4,000 times the legal limit.
- TEPCO says plutonium -- a by-product of atomic reactions and also used in nuclear bombs -- has been found at low-risk levels in five places at the crippled plant.
- Electricity demand in areas covered by TEPCO fell 9.2 percent in March from a year earlier.
- Xstrata and Chugoku Electric have settled an annual coal contract for the Japanese fiscal year starting April 1 at a record level despite the near-term thermal coal demand destruction. The contract was settled at just under \$130 per tonne, over 30 percent higher than last year.
- J-Power says it has temporarily stopped construction work on the Ohma nuclear plant due to a halt in power supplies and difficulty in transportation of construction materials.

- Tohoku Electric Power says it will look at restoring its two nuclear power plants -- Onagawa and Higashidori -- after taking stronger safety measures.
- TEPCO expects its power supply capacity for the summer to reach 46,500 megawatts, excluding hydro power using pumped water, nearly 10,000 MW less than projected peak demand, which is expected to hit 55,000 MW even after taking into account users' efforts at power saving.
- Kashima Kyodo Electric Power Co does not yet have a schedule for the restart of its 1,050 megawatt power plant as the facility is damaged and is suffering from blackouts.
- Tohoku Electric aims to restart a mothballed 350-megawatt liquefied natural gas and oil-fired power generation unit at the Higashi Niigata plant in early June due to power shortages.

REFINERIES

- Maruzen Petrochemical restarted its 480,000 tonnes per year naphtha cracker in Chiba.
- Japan will allow the release of an additional 22 days worth of oil stocks from privately held reserves in a bid to ease energy shortages. Japan is making available a total of 10 million kilolitres of oil, or 66 million barrels.
- JX Nippon Oil & Energy Corp, an oil refining unit of JX Holdings, boosted oil product output at its Mizushima refinery by a further 19,800 bpd to 400,000 bpd in the wake of a supply shortage. The firm had already raised output by 30,000 bpd.
- JX Holdings restarted its 404,000 tonnes per year Kawasaki naphtha cracker near Tokyo on March 29.
- JX Nippon Oil said it expects to take a considerable amount of time before restarting the 145,000 bpd Sendai and 252,500 bpd Kashima refineries, both of which sustained major damage. The firm has resumed operations at its Negishi refinery in Yokohama.
- Cosmo Oil extinguished a fire at its 220,000 bpd Chiba refinery, but is not yet sure when it will restart normal operations.
- Showa Shell Sekiyu KK said that it has started full output at its four group refineries. Total capacity at the refineries is 655,000 bpd.
- Oil product output in Japan will recover to 3.4 million barrels per day by the end of March, a level above domestic demand, as idled refineries resume operations, said an oil industry body.
- AOC Holdings says its refiner Fuji Oil Co has increased runs at the two fluid catalytic cracking units at its 140,000 bpd Sodegaura refinery.

METALS

- Sumitomo Metal Industries resumed operations at the last remaining blast furnace at the 8.3 million tonne-a-year Kashima works north of Tokyo.
- Chilean miner Codelco plans to ship an additional 10,000 to 20,000 tonnes of copper cathodes to Japan.
- Mitsubishi, Furukawa and Dowa declared force majeure on shipments from the Onahama copper smelter.
- Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co plans to boost zinc production at two factories in western Japan after operations at its Hachinohe zinc smelter were halted.
- Toho Zinc Co stopped operations at its 139,200 tonnes per year Annaka zinc smelter and Onahama plant, which is used to treat zinc for smelting.
- Nippon Steel's small Kamaishi plant, which had produced 60,000 tonnes a month of downstream steel products, remains shut.

PORTS

- Five small oil terminals and most of the shipping berths in the quake-hit northeast remain closed.
- All 15 key ports damaged by the March 11 disaster are open for recovery efforts, but access is limited. Only 29 percent of the 367 shipping berths at the facilities are open.
- Oil terminals operated by Mitsubishi Chemical, Kashima Denkai and Shin Etsu Chemical remain closed at the port of Kashima. Terminals run by Kashima Kyobi and Kashima Oil were partly open.
- JX Nippon Oil & Energy's terminal at the Port of Sendai and Onahama Petroleum's loading facility at Onahama are also shut.
- Cosmo Oil's terminal at the port of Chiba has resumed some vessel cargo operations, but onshore facility work remains. The firm's terminal was the only one damaged at Japan's top oil and LNG port.
- Two piers at the medium-sized Onahama seaport in Fukushima prefecture are now available for 30,000 tonne vessels.

(Compiled by Randy Fabi in Singapore; Editing by Michael Urquhart)

Nuclear power is safest way to make electricity, according to study (WP)

By David Brown, Saturday, April , 8:33 PM

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Nuclear power's advantage over fossil fuels is even more dramatic when carbon dioxide emissions are considered.

Many experts think greenhouse gases are a future threat to health. Some say the threat is already here, and point to 30,000 heat-related deaths in Europe in August 2003 as evidence. Coal produces 1,290 grams of CO₂ per kilowatt hour in direct (smokestack) and indirect (mining, transport) emissions, while nuclear produces 30, according to the Lancet study.

Built into the calculations are the consequences of what are called "beyond-design" nuclear accidents — events similar to what is underway in Japan. However, there aren't enough big nuclear plant accidents to provide a statistically meaningful estimate of their frequency, effects and costs. According to a database compiled by the Paul Scherrer Institut, from 1970 to 2008 there were 1,686 accidents in the coal industry, 531 in the oil industry and 186 involving natural gas in which five or more people died. There was just one such nuclear accident — at Chernobyl 25 years ago this month.

To better estimate the potential impact of nuclear catastrophes, analysts break down plant operations into thousands of different actions and then estimate the probabilities of hypothetical accident sequences. Hirschberg and his colleagues used a Swiss nuclear plant to come up with such an estimate. They calculated that nuclear accidents in Europe can be expected to cost .007 lives per gigawatt year (1 million kilowatt years), compared with .12 lives for coal, .02 lives for oil and .06 for natural gas.

Radiation's toll

There is also much uncertainty about how many people might be harmed by a big nuclear accident.

At Chernobyl, two people died during the accident and 28 others died of radiation illness in the first four months afterward. (Some estimates of the early deaths put the number as high as 57).

Since then, there have been 6,800 cases of thyroid cancer in people who were children at the time of the accident, according to a recent report by the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, with the number still rising. As of 2005, only 15 were fatal.

To date, there is no clear increase in leukemia or other cancers, or deaths from non-cancer diseases. However, various expert groups estimate that 4,000 to 33,000 premature deaths might occur as a consequence of the accident.

In general, the hazards of radiation are less than most people think.

Since 1950, Japanese and American researchers have followed 120,000 residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the cities on which the United States dropped atomic bombs in 1945 to end World War II. Three-quarters of the people in the Life Span Study were exposed to the blasts; one-quarter were away at the time. The number of deaths attributable to the bombs is estimated by comparing survival in the two groups.

Through 2000, 42,304 of the people in the study had died. Of those deaths, 822 were “excess” — probably a result of the radiation.

Nuclear’s ‘dread factor’

Many critics of nuclear power say none of this truly accounts for the technology’s hazards.

“To replace carbon pollution with radioactive pollution is not a healthy solution,” said Epstein, the Harvard physician. “Even if the events are rare, what’s happening now in Japan demonstrates how profound and long-lasting these impacts can be.”

At a recent briefing by Physicians for Social Responsibility, David Richardson, an epidemiologist from the University of North Carolina, said that “the unsolved problems of long-term storage and its contribution to nuclear proliferation” are two reasons besides accidents that make nuclear power unacceptable.

Future accidents at storage sites are considered by energy analysts. But because modeling suggests they’re improbable, they don’t affect the calculations much. Mental-health effects of nuclear accidents are part of the calculations, too, but the doomsday fear of them and threat from nuclear proliferation are not.

“There is a kind of dread factor for nuclear which is very hard to quantify,” Markandya said. He added after a pause, “In the end . . . if people feel really uncomfortable with nuclear power, then they ought to go against it.”

browndm@washpost.com

Is nuclear energy worth the risk?(CNN)

4/4/11

(CNN) -- The more things change, the more they stay the same...

Explosions at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, leaks of radioactive materials into the land and sea, heroic workers braving significant doses of radiation, material detected overseas -- though not in the same league as Chernobyl this is certainly a serious nuclear accident. (Full coverage of the nuclear crisis in Japan)

The effects on nuclear power globally of the last major accidents -- at Three Mile Island in 1979 and at Chernobyl in 1986 -- were severe.

Several countries abandoned plans to build nuclear plants or decided to phase out their existing reactors. New safety requirements were hugely expensive -- extra costs, long delays in construction programs and, at Shoreham in New York State, refusal of an operating licence to a completed plant because it proved impossible to devise an evacuation plan.

But Fukushima does not change the basic arguments over nuclear energy.

Of the 13 reactors which were subjected to the Scale 9 earthquake and 14 meter tsunami, only the four oldest ones (all commissioned in the 1970s using 1960s technology) suffered significant problems.

The incident demonstrates the extraordinary safety standards and robustness of more modern nuclear power stations. Against the background of an unimaginable tragedy that has taken more than 12,000 lives so far, it is extremely unlikely that the radioactive emissions from Daiichi Reactors 1 to 4 will add a single long-term casualty, with the possible exception of some of the emergency workers.

And the basic question remains; if not nuclear, what?

In Japan the future has come early. Japan imports 84% of its energy requirements. It has no oil, no gas, hardly any coal left and limited renewable options. Heavier dependence on imports from the former Soviet Union countries and the Middle East, with all the political implications, is not attractive.

And 2011 is not 1986. In 1986 oil prices were falling -- today they are back over \$100 a barrel, taking coal and gas prices with them.

Climate change was a scientific curiosity in 1986, now it is the major environmental issue of our times. Three Mile Island and Chernobyl were both new reactors and the accidents highly relevant to new build -- Fukushima involves 1960s technology facing unprecedented natural challenges (and largely coming through them).

Today's new reactors are designed not to need power to cooling pumps in order to remain safe.

Of course we need to check the standards of older reactors and examine how spent fuel is managed, and there may be lessons about information management as well.

But the case for nuclear was never that it is perfectly safe -- it is that the certain challenges of growing energy demand, depleting hydrocarbon reserves and climate change have no easy solutions but nuclear can help. Nothing that has happened in the last month changes that.

-- Malcolm Grimston is Associate Fellow at Chatham House

No future for nuclear energy

Nuclear power with all of the attendant dangers of nuclear proliferation, catastrophic accidents and long-lived deadly radioactive waste can make at best a negligible impact on climate change.

It is used uniquely to generate electricity. It does not power our cars, our airplanes, our trucks or our container ships.

According to the conservative International Energy Agency even if a new nuclear reactor was switched on every ten days between now and 2050 it would lead to a carbon emissions cut of less than 4%.

There is a safer, more secure and more equitable way to fuel our societies, Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Council have developed an energy scenario which shows how 95% of the worlds energy needs can be met by renewable energy sources by 2050: reliable energy, with more jobs, more equitable power distribution, and no "peak solar" or "peak wind" fuel price variations. Under this plan no new nuclear reactors would be ordered.

But this isn't just a theory, it is happening. In Spain today, 35% of the energy mix comes from renewables, 16% of it from wind. Portugal shifted its electrical grid from 15% to 45% renewables in the space of just 5 years. And, Germany's installed solar energy capacity is greater than all six of the Fukushima reactors combined.

As we approach the first anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and contemplate the nightmare currently unfolding in Japan, it is worth opening a real dialogue with those who would support dangerous energy choices like fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

The dangers involved are too great to be dismissed and the risks unnecessary. The Earth has provided us with a sustainable solution: an energy (r)evolution based only on clean, safe and secure renewable sources of energy.

-- Kumi Naidoo is Executive Director of Greenpeace International

The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of the authors, but what do you think? Have your say by leaving a comment.

JAPAN

Fence in Pacific to try to corral radiation coming from nuclear plant

CNN, 4/4/2011

Tokyo (CNN) -- Workers at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant are onto "Plan C" in their bid to stop highly radioactive water from gushing directly into the Pacific Ocean through a cracked concrete shaft, a Japanese nuclear official said Monday.

Neither of the first two attempts to fill up the 20-centimeter (8-inch) crack outside the No. 2 reactor's turbine building -- on Saturday by pouring in concrete, and then Sunday by using a chemical compound mixed with sawdust and newspaper -- has been successful.

As they mull other ways to cut off the leak at its source, workers will install a silt fence -- screening usually used to prevent erosion in construction projects -- along the damaged sea wall that surrounds the plant, Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's nuclear and industrial safety agency said Monday. The goal is to prevent the spread of radioactive particles into the sea.

Workers have injected a dye tracer into the water that will allow them to track the dispersal of such particles, the spokesman added.

This is the latest, but hardly the only challenge at the nuclear plant, 240 kilometers (150 miles) north of Tokyo. The facility has been in constant crisis the epic March 11 quake and subsequent tsunami knocked out systems that cooled nuclear fuel and was followed by several explosions.

Fixing the problem quickly is critical because officials believe it is one source of alarmingly high levels of radiation spotted in seawater near the plant, as well as in nearby groundwater.

"This situation has continued for a long time," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said Monday. "We need to stop the release into the seawater as soon as possible ... The soil contamination also needs to be stopped."

In some cases, authorities don't even know how much radiation is getting out.

After some high-profile errors while offering regular radiation measurements on seawater, groundwater and the air, little such new information has been released since Thursday. One reason is that the dosimeters being used don't go above 1,000 millisieverts per hour, Junichi Matsumoto, an executive with the plant's owner Tokyo Electric Power Company, told reporters Sunday.

Authorities know the water in the cracked concrete shaft, then, is emitting at least that much radiation -- which equates, at a minimum, to more than 330 times the dose an average resident of an industrialized country naturally receives in a year.

In the Pacific Ocean itself, the last reported measurement (from Thursday) of seawater taken 330 meters (361 yards) offshore were said to have levels of iodine-131 at 4,385 times above the standard and cesium-137 at 527 times beyond normal. Experts say the latter radioactive isotope may be a greater concern because it persists longer, taking 30 years to lose half its radiation -- compared to an eight-day half-life for the iodine-131 isotope.

Plugging the external leak is job one, in order to prevent the outflow of radiation into the Pacific. But it may not be the most difficult, or important, task ahead.

Authorities still have to figure out how the tainted water got into the concrete shaft in the first place. The water had to come from somewhere, potentially traveling across melted-down nuclear fuel in the reactor's core before somehow reaching the outside.

Nishiyama, the nuclear safety official, said Sunday that the working theory is that water injected in recent weeks into the No. 2 reactor to help cool its nuclear fuel rods somehow got out.

"We were assuming and hoping (that water) would stay in the containment vessel as vapor after being cooled," he said. "However, it may have flowed into the building, and then the trench."

Finding out why and how that happened -- and, more so, what to do about it -- promises to be "exceptionally challenging," said physicist James Acton, with the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment think tank.

To do so, officials must inspect a complicated array of pipes inside the dangerous radioactive environment inside the containment buildings, according to Acton. He is familiar with Japanese nuclear plants, having examined one rocked by a 6.8-magnitude earthquake in 2007.

Even once all leaks are plugged and contaminated water is removed from whatever places where it shouldn't be, like various reactors' turbine buildings and exposed maintenance tunnels, authorities are considering ways to prevent any new radiation from getting out.

On Monday, a Tokyo Electric spokesman said the idea of wrapping some or all of the plant's six reactors containment buildings in massive amounts of sheeting, in order to curb the release of radiation had been discussed in recent talks with government officials. The utility company is considering the concept, according to the spokesman.

Ultimately the goal is to make sure that the nuclear fuel, and the potentially cancerous materials it can release, never poses a threat again.

"Finally, we (need to) establish a long-term policy to cool the reactors," said Nishiyama, while acknowledging that much work needs to be done in the meantime.

CNN's Tsukushi Ikeda, Yoko Wakatsuki, Junko Ogura, Midori Nakata, Susan Olson and Martin Savidge contributed to this report

Focus at Power Plant Turns to Water (WSJ)

4/3/11

By MITSURU OBE And ANDREW MORSE

TOKYO—As the world anxiously watches for signs of progress at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, the focus of the repair has turned to removing radioactive water from in and around the reactor buildings, as the poison pools prevent workers from doing other tasks. Yet more than a week after the problem was first discovered, very little water has been removed.

Three factors have caused the delay: structural damage to pipes and other reactor parts crucial for water movement; radiation dangers blocking workers from performing essential steps; and a shortage of safe places to put the water.

Also, government and company officials seem to be moving methodically in this phase, concluding it is better to get things right than to rush. They appear to have the time, as the reactors seem to have stabilized and the amount of atmospheric radiation they have released has declined over the past two weeks.

"Obviously, it would be better if we were able to show a clear timetable," Hidehiko Nishiyama, a top nuclear regulator said at a news conference Friday. "But we do not want to lose trust by setting ambitious targets and missing them."

The buildup of radioactive water, however, presents problems, as shown over the weekend, when officials confirmed it is leaking into nearby groundwater and the ocean.

When the water problem was first discovered March 24 after three workers got burned stepping in it, officials made the solution sound swift and simple: They would begin pumping the water out of the flooded buildings.

It turned out that wasn't so easy. They needed a place to put the water, and the logical places already were full.

The past week has been devoted largely to creating a three-link chain of repositories that will allow drainage of the reactors. Success now is measured not in actual removal of the water, but in clearing a space for it.

The key links in the chain begin with the most important task of attaching the electric cooling systems to reactors No. 1, 2 and 3, so the internal cooling process can begin. Absent that, operators are relying on injecting water to keep the reactors from overheating, a process that has stabilized the fuel rods, but doesn't seem likely to bring them to the desired cold shutdown. And it has the dangerous side effect of creating a large buildup of radioactive water in nearby groundwater and seawater.

Workers, however, can't hook up the cooling pumps now, because the turbine buildings that power the machinery are flooded. They first need to pump the water out of those turbine buildings. But they can't do that now either, because the closest place to move that water is the "condenser unit," so-called because during normal operations it takes the steam that runs the turbines and condenses it into water.

Those units are currently full. So the water there needs to be moved to second nearby tanks, called condensate storage tanks, located in front of the turbine buildings. When workers discovered the problem a few days ago, those tanks also had water in them. The water in those tanks needed to be drained into third tanks, called surge tanks, farther from the buildings.

Some progress has been reported in the past few days.

Tepco appears to have put the highest priority on reactor No. 2, where the measured level of radiation in the water is highest and seems to be leaking into the sea. There, workers began shifting water from the closest tank to the middle tank Saturday, having earlier finished shifting the contents of the middle tank to the far tank. Once that closest tank is empty, they can begin emptying the turbine building.

At reactor No. 1, they have finished emptying the middle tank to the far tank, and on Sunday they started shifting water from the closest tank to the middle tank.

At reactor No. 3, they have finished emptying the middle tank, but haven't yet started moving water from the closest tank. Officials say that will start soon.

Why does all that take so long?

First, they need more places to store the water that leaves the reactors. There isn't enough storage capacity on the site. And it isn't so easy to find large-scale storage tanks that can handle such toxic liquid. To help add storage capacity, they are looking at bringing in barges to a nearby port, including a floating fishing pier dubbed "mega-float" from the port city of Shizuoka.

Tepco also said Friday it would build new storage tanks and a pond with a combined total capacity of 10,000 tons. Those won't be completed until mid-April.

Officials haven't said how much water they need to remove. One Japanese newspaper, the Asahi Shimbun, has said there are at least 20,000 tons.

Mr. Nishiyama couldn't confirm that estimate. "We don't know," he said.

It isn't just a storage problem. It also is difficult to move the water between the links in the chain. They are connected by an intricate network of pipes. Many of the pipes are narrow-gauge and can't carry significant amounts of water, slowing the draining process. And some of the pipes were damaged when the tsunami overwhelmed seawalls and destroyed the reactors back-up systems, according to a government official who asked not to be named.

Many of those pipes are in highly radioactive areas, making it hard for workers to conduct repairs.

Also, some parts of the pipes can't be operated via remote control, meaning workers have to adjust manually the valves that control the flow of water, a Tepco spokesman said. Radiation makes that difficult.

Another factor that appears to be slowing down the water transfer: Tepco is using only three relatively small pumps to conduct the process.

The company has one pump assigned to each reactor. At reactors No. 1 and 3, the pumps can move only 25 cubic meters—or one metric ton—per hour. At reactor No. 2, they have a pump that moves just 10 cubic meters per hour.

A regulator said even faster pumps wouldn't necessarily help because it isn't clear the narrow pipes could sustain more volume

Japanese nuclear plant continues to leak radioactive water into ocean(LAT)

Workers at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant are unable to plug a leak of radioactive water. Meanwhile, Japan's prime minister says it will take months to resolve the problems at the plant. Red Cross says aid payments will begin soon.

By Julie Makinen and Kenji Hall, Los Angeles Times

8:43 PM PDT, April 3, 2011

Reporting from Tokyo

Radioactive water continued to seep into the sea Monday after a failed attempt to seal the leak at the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant using an absorbent polymer, sawdust and shredded paper.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials think the leak has been coming from an 8-inch crack in the concrete pit holding power cables near reactor No. 2. On Monday, Tepco said it would use a dye to try to trace the path of the leak, Kyodo News reported. Radiation levels in the pit water are an estimated 1,000 millisieverts per hour, a high but not immediately lethal dose.

Engineers also planned to begin injecting nitrogen gas into reactors No. 1, 2 and 3 in an attempt to prevent possible explosions from the buildup of hydrogen gas. Explosions at the three reactors in the first four days after the magnitude 9 earthquake and accompanying tsunami March 11 badly damaged the reactor buildings and disabled the cooling pumps that provided water to the reactors. Government officials say it may take months to fully restore the cooling systems.

Japan's official death toll from the disaster topped 12,000 on Sunday, as about 25,000 U.S. and Japanese troops finished an intensive three-day recovery effort. The search located 78 bodies, but more than 15,000 people are still officially listed as missing. About 160,000 survivors remain in shelters.

Japan's Red Cross and the Central Community Chest of Japan have collected more than \$1 billion but have yet to distribute any cash directly to victims, prompting Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano to urge Sunday that the process be accelerated.

A Red Cross spokeswoman, Miyoko Kawamura, responded that the payments would likely start this month.

Edano also said that the government would have independent experts retest the soil around the Fukushima nuclear plant to reevaluate whether current evacuation orders should be modified.

The government has told residents living within 12 miles of the plant to evacuate, and has urged those living within 18 miles to leave or at least stay indoors as much as possible.

The government has come under renewed pressure from groups, including Greenpeace, to expand its evacuation area, but at the same time, residents who vacated the 12-mile zone have been seeking permission to return briefly to their homes to gather personal items. Officials in recent days have not shown signs of moving in either direction, and Edano said Sunday the current order will last "a long time," though he conceded it was "tough on residents."

Edano added that the government had checked the thyroid function of 900 children up to age 15 in two villages, Iitate and Kawamata, just outside the 18-mile perimeter and none showed signs of exposure to high radiation levels. High levels of radiation have been detected in the water and on grass in Iitate. Edano said it was the third time that the government had conducted tests on children in areas just outside the 18-mile zone.

The Red Cross has sent more than 200 emergency relief teams to the disaster zone and organized thousands of volunteers to assist victims. But no displaced people have yet received cash payments from the pot of more than \$1 billion collected by the Japanese Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Central Community Chest of Japan.

In past disasters in Japan, independent panels in each prefecture have determined who gets such aid and how much. Edano suggested that this time, the process must be streamlined.

"Normally donations are disbursed through local governments that rely on independent committees to decide on the conditions for dividing up the money," Edano said. "But this time, the central government has a role to play in setting up an independent committee" that will figure out how to split up donations.

Tomohide Atsumi, president of the Nippon Volunteer Network Active in Disaster, said the Red Cross has "a policy of equity and places a high value on equality, and it takes times to assess damages."

In contrast, he said, donations to nonprofit groups often get spent immediately. Atsumi said his organization used funds collected right after the disaster to buy underwear and other supplies for evacuees and to charter a bus for volunteers to help victims in the northeast.

Overall, he said, Japan is still learning how to strike the right balance between order and a more free-form approach in its disaster relief efforts. An overemphasis on organization and top-down decision making, he said, probably prevented more volunteers from going to the disaster zone more quickly.

"The drive to be organized is very strong in our society... but people are not good at socially improvising," he said. "I like to use the metaphor of classical music vs. jazz. Our traditional disaster response is like classical music — there's a conductor, a big orchestra, a fancy hall. Disaster relief should be more like jazz — you can do something with one trumpeter, one drummer. You don't need a whole orchestra."

As the disaster zone has become more accessible, experts are learning more about the size and force of the massive tsunami.

A group of researchers led by Yoshinobu Tsuji of Tokyo University's Earthquake Research Institute has been studying the tsunami-hit area around Miyako, in Iwate prefecture. They found evidence that the waves could have been as high as 124 feet, according to public broadcaster NHK. That would make them the tallest waves to hit Japan's northeastern shore since 1896, when the tsunami waves recorded at Ofunato were 125 feet high.

"This tsunami was comparable to the [1896] tsunami — and it might have been bigger," Tsuji said.

julie.makinen@latimes.com

Hall is a special correspondent. Times staff writer Thomas H. Maugh II in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

April 3, 2011

Efforts to Plug Japanese Reactor Leak Seem to Fail (NYT)

By HIROKO TABUCHI and KEN BELSON

TOKYO — Workers' struggle to plug a gush of highly contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, using sawdust, shredded newspaper and an absorbent powder, appeared to be failing early Monday as the radiation threat from the crippled plant continued to spread.

Water with high amounts of radioactive iodine has been spewing directly into the Pacific Ocean from a large crack discovered Saturday in a six-foot-deep pit at the coastal plant north of Tokyo. The pit is next to the seawater intake pipes at the No. 2 reactor.

After an unsuccessful attempt to flood the pit with concrete to stop the leak, workers on Sunday turned to trying to plug the apparent source of the water — an underground shaft thought to lead to the damaged reactor building — with more than 120 pounds of sawdust, three garbage bags full of shredded newspaper and about nine pounds of a polymeric powder that officials said absorbed 50 times its volume of water.

Although the stopgap measure did not appear to be succeeding, workers would keep trying to stem the leak, said Hidehiko Nishiyama, deputy director general of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

Early Monday, workers injected a dye into a separate tunnel where contaminated water had been discovered, to determine whether that was the source of the water in the pit, said Tokyo Electric Power Company, the plant's operator. Workers are also expected to continue efforts Monday to stop the leakage from the pit into the ocean.

Experts estimate that about seven tons an hour of radioactive water is escaping the pit. Safety officials have said that the water, which appears to be coming from the damaged No. 2 reactor, contains one million becquerels per liter of iodine 131, or about 10,000 times the levels normally found in water at a nuclear plant.

"There is still a steady stream of water from the pit," Mr. Nishiyama said, but workers would continue to "observe and evaluate" the situation overnight.

The leak underscores the dangerous side effects of the strategy to cool the plant's reactors and spent fuel storage pools by pumping them with hundreds of tons of water. While much of that water evaporates, a significant portion also turns into dangerous runoff that has been discovered in various parts of the plant, endangering workers at the plant and hindering repair efforts. On March 24, three workers were injured when they stepped into a pool of radioactive water in one of the plant's turbine buildings.

In recent days, workers have tried to clear the contaminated pools, but have struggled to find places to store the water. Meanwhile, levels of iodine 131 that are over 4,000 times normal, as well as levels of cesium 137 that are 527 times normal have been detected in seawater taken 1,080 feet away from the plant, raising fears of damage to sea life.

Tokyo Electric has said it has little choice but to pump more water into the reactors at the moment, since the normal cooling systems at the plant are inoperable and more radioactive material would be released if the reactors were allowed to melt down fully or if the rods caught fire.

Still, some experts expressed bewilderment at what they called an 11th-hour bid to plug the leak.

"I've never heard of anything like it at a nuclear power plant," said Itsuro Kimura, emeritus professor at Kyoto University and director of the Japan-based Institute of Nuclear Technology. What is really needed, he said, is for the cooling systems to come back online at the plant's six reactors. Those cooling systems work by circulating water around the nuclear fuel, producing little runoff.

"That is the best way to stop the leakage of radioactive water," Mr. Kimura said. "But for now, they have to stop the water leaking the best they can."

Tokyo Electric has come under growing scrutiny for its handling of the nuclear crisis set off by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan. In recent days, reports surfaced that the company would be taken over by the government. Tokyo Electric reported that a protesters' sound truck, presumably sent to heckle the company, was blocked from entering the Fukushima Daiichi plant on Thursday.

There are also frequent protests at the company's headquarters in the Uchisaiwai-cho neighborhood of central Tokyo. On Sunday, several hundred antinuclear protesters assembled in front of Tokyo Electric's offices, then marched to Kasumigaseki to protest in front of the offices of Japan's nuclear regulators.

The protesters shouted such slogans as, "Tokyo Electric, get out of nuclear energy" and "Compensate the victims." Others called for the company and government to apologize. Some carried placards that read, "Even if we don't have nuclear power, we'll still have electricity."

"The Japanese people don't protest usually, but this time, we have to show that we can call for change," said Masanobu Takeshi, 40, who was there with his wife and son.

Makoto Yanagida, 70, who has been protesting since March 12, said that on the first day, only about 10 people showed up. Sunday's protest, the 10th, drew more than 300 people, he said. Mr. Yanagida said that he would continue protesting until nuclear plants were shut down.

Nuclear officials warned that it could take months to bring the Fukushima Daiichi plant under control. "It would take a few months until we finally get things under control and have a better idea about the future," said Mr. Nishiyama of the nuclear safety agency. "We'll face a crucial turning point within the next few months, but that is not the end."

Earlier Sunday, Tokyo Electric said that two workers at the Fukushima Daiichi plant who were missing since the day of the earthquake and tsunami had been confirmed dead. Five employees of subsidiary companies have died at other Tokyo Electric facilities.

Tokyo Electric said the two workers at Fukushima Daiichi were found in the basement of the turbine building connected to the No. 4 reactor. The company found the bodies on Wednesday but did not release the details until the families had been notified.

The company said that the workers, Kazuhiro Kokubo, 24, and Yoshiki Terashima, 21, died on March 11, around 4 p.m., after the tsunami hit the plant.

"It pains me that these two young workers were trying to protect the power plant," Tokyo Electric's chairman, Tsunehisa Katsumata, said in a statement.

Of the other five deaths, one man died when he was struck by a crane that had toppled at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, and four workers died at Tokyo Electric's Hitachinaka coal-fired power plant when they fell from the chimneys they were working on.

Ken Ijichi and Moshe Komata contributed reporting.

***Regulator Says Radioactive Water Leaking Into Ocean From Japanese Nuclear Plant
(Tabuchi, Belson, NYT)***

Saturday, April 2, 2011

New York Times

By Hiroko Tabuchi, Ken Belson

TOKYO — Highly radioactive water is leaking directly into the sea from a damaged pit near a crippled reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, safety officials said Saturday.

Japan's nuclear regulator said that workers discovered a crack about eight inches wide in the pit, which lies between the No. 2 Reactor and the sea and holds cables used to power seawater pumps.

The operator of the plant said that air directly above the water leaking into the sea had a radiation reading of more than 1,000 millisieverts an hour, said Hidehiko Nishiyama, deputy director-general of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency. Although higher levels of radiation have been detected in the ocean waters near the plant, the leak discovered Saturday is the first identified direct leak of such high levels of radiation into the sea. Earlier Saturday, Mr. Nishiyama had said that above-normal levels of radioactive materials were detected about 25 miles south of the Fukushima plant, much further than had previously been reported.

The pit was filled with four to eight inches of contaminated water, said the operator of the plant, Tokyo Electric Power Company. It was unclear where that water was coming from. Highly radioactive water has also been discovered in the reactor's turbine building in the past week.

Workers will try to patch up the crack with concrete, the company said.

Saturday's announcement of a leak came a day after the U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu said Reactor No. 2 at the Fukushima plant had suffered a 33 percent meltdown. He cautioned that the figures were "more of a calculation." Speaking from Washington, Mr. Chu also said that roughly 70 percent of the core of Reactor No. 1 had suffered severe damage.

The crisis at the nuclear plant has overshadowed the recovery effort under way in Japan since the 9.0 magnitude quake and tsunami hit the northeastern coast on March 11. Earlier Saturday, Prime Minister Naoto Kan made his first visit to the region since last month's disaster, where he promised to do everything possible to help. His tour came a day after asking Japan to start focusing on the long hard task of rebuilding the tsunami-shattered prefectures.

"We'll be together with you to the very end," Mr. Kan said during a stop in Rikuzentakata, a town of about 20,000 people that was destroyed on March 11. "Everybody, try your best."

Dressed in a blue work jacket, Kan also visited with refugees stranded in an elementary school and then visited a J-Village about 20 miles south of the disabled nuclear plant. The training facility has been turned into a staging area for firefighters, Self-Defense Forces and workers from Tokyo Electric, which owns the nuclear reactors.

Despite the massive destruction in Iwate, Miyagi and other parts of northeastern Honshu, the largest and most populous of Japan's islands, the government has also been battling to gain control of the damaged nuclear station. Tokyo Electric has struggled to find a place to dump water that has been contaminated during efforts to cool the reactors and spent fuel pools.

On Saturday, contaminated water was transferred into a barge to free up space in other tanks on land. A second barge also arrived.

Radioactive Water Found Leaking Into Sea From Pit At Japan Nuclear Plant (Nakamura, WP)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Washington Post

By David Nakamura

Authorities discovered highly radioactive water leaking from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the ocean Saturday, the latest sign that the desperate strategies being used to cool the overheating reactors could be creating new problems.

The toxic water had pooled by an almost eight-inch-long crack in the concrete wall of a pit at the No. 2 reactor where power cables are stored, Japan's nuclear regulatory office said. The radioactivity level in the air above the water was measured at 1,000 millisieverts per hour, four times the maximum level that workers can be exposed to under Japanese law.

Emergency crews poured concrete into the crack Saturday afternoon and again in the evening in a bid to stem the leak, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported. However, the concrete was unable to set because the water washed it away, authorities said, and Tokyo Electric Power Co., which operates the plant, was considering using a plastic polymer Sunday morning.

Hidehiko Nishiyama, deputy director general of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, said the government has instructed Tepco to examine the facility for other potential leaks.

"Today we found highly irradiated water in the pit where the electricity cables are contained," Nishiyama said at a news conference. "It seems that there is a crack on the side of the concrete wall of the pit. Some water is spilling out of the crack to the sea."

The discovery raised the disconcerting possibility that the power company's decision to drench the reactors with tens of thousands of tons of water in an attempt to submerge the exposed spent fuel rods is having an unintended side effect.

Workers have scrambled to try to figure out what to do with the irradiated water that has built up in the plant. They have put some in storage tanks and moved some into floating barges offshore. Yet three workers laying power cables at the plant two weeks ago suffered leg burns after stepping in a highly toxic pool of water; they were released from a radiation hospital this week after doctors concluded they had not suffered long-term damage.

Government officials said they had not determined the source of the radiation in the water that was found leaking Saturday.

"We will investigate the route the water is flowing into the pit," Nishiyama said.

The setback undercut any momentum Prime Minister Naoto Kan had hoped to build when he announced Friday that the government would turn its attention to recovery and reconstruction.

Kan, making his first visit to areas affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, traveled in a Japanese military helicopter to Rikuzentakata in northern Iwate prefecture, which had been hit hard by the twin disasters. In the city of 23,000, more than 1,000 people are dead and 1,000 others remain missing, with 13,000 living in shelters, said Noriyuki Shikata, a government spokesman.

All told, 11,938 people were killed by the quake and tsunami, and 15,478 are missing, according to the National Police Agency. The Japan Self-Defense Forces, with the help of the U.S. military, will finish a three-day intensive search for bodies Sunday. So far, they have found 66 bodies over two days, according to Kyodo News.

Kan saw "mountains of debris and rubble, basically ruins," Shikata said. The prime minister then visited the nuclear plant workers at a staging area about 12 miles from the plant, he added.

Meanwhile, Japan continued to receive aid from other countries, including a German-designed robot that can be used to remove debris and help repair the power plant; British radiation counters and gas masks; and 10,000 tons of gas and diesel from China. A 15-member advance team from the U.S. military's radiation control squadron arrived at Yokota Air Base, to be followed by 140 Marines who are trained to screen for radiation and prevent contamination.

Of the 32 foreign embassies in Tokyo that had suspended operations after the earthquake, 18 have reopened, Foreign Ministry spokesman Takeshi Matsunaga said.

Reactor Core Was Severely Damaged, US Official Says (Sanger, Jolly, NYT)

Saturday, April 2, 2011

New York Times

By David E. Sanger, David Jolly

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Steven Chu said Friday that roughly 70 percent of the core of one reactor at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan had suffered severe damage.

His assessment of the damage to Reactor No. 1 was the most specific yet from an American official on how close the plant came to a full meltdown after it was hit by a severe earthquake and massive tsunami on March 11.

Japanese officials have spoken of “partial meltdown” at some of the stricken reactors. But they have been less than specific, especially on the question of how close No. 1 — the most badly damaged reactor — came to a full meltdown.

Mr. Chu, a Nobel laureate in physics, suggested that the worst moments of the crisis appeared to be receding, saying that the best information the United States had received from the Japanese authorities indicated that water was once again covering the cores of the stricken reactors and that pools of spent fuel atop the reactor buildings were “now under control.”

In addition to the severe damage at Reactor No. 1, the Energy Department said that Reactor No. 2 had suffered a 33 percent meltdown. Mr. Chu cautioned that the figures were “more of a calculation” because radiation levels inside the plant had been too high for workers to get inside, and sensors were unreliable.

He called the nuclear crisis in Japan “a cascade of events” that led to multiple failures of backup systems. He told reporters at a breakfast that while officials were reviewing the accident to see if American nuclear plants needed significant changes, he did not want to overreact or rush into changes whose effects might not be fully understood.

“First and foremost, we are trying to make sure that fuller damage is not done,” he said.

Questioned about the long-term effects of Japan’s effort to “feed and bleed” the reactors — pouring in cooling water, then releasing it as steam into the atmosphere — he said there was an effort now under way to “minimize the release” of radioactivity into the air.

“They’re trying to reach a steady state,” he said, in which cooling could take place with minimal radioactive releases into the atmosphere.

Meanwhile, Japan and the United States combined efforts on Friday in a final search for thousands of people still missing after the earthquake and tsunami. The three-day effort will be

the last big sweep before officials in Tokyo shift their focus to a daunting national reconstruction effort.

In the largest rescue mission ever carried out in Japan, 18,000 Japanese searchers have been joined by 7,000 American sailors and Marines, in an operation using 120 helicopters and reconnaissance aircraft and 65 ships to scour a coastal area from the northern tip of Iwate Prefecture to the southern end of Fukushima Prefecture.

"Until now," said Minako Sawamura, a spokeswoman for the Japanese military in Sendai, "the search has focused on finding survivors on land. But the tsunami carried many people with it when it washed back out to sea. So we're making an effort, including from the air, to find those people." The National Policy Agency still lists 16,464 as missing, and the number of dead at 11,620.

In a symbolic gesture to show the changing emphasis in Tokyo, Yukio Edano, the chief cabinet secretary, showed up for a news conference Friday morning dressed in normal business attire, the first time since the disaster struck that he had not appeared in one of the blue work jackets officials have worn to indicate the seriousness of the situation.

"We want to show that the government is looking to the future, considering the reconstruction plans," Mr. Edano said.

Japanese nonetheless remain concerned by the drama at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, 140 miles north of Tokyo. Since the quake and tsunami hit, the plant has sustained fires and explosions at several reactor buildings. Radiation leaks have included some into the sea near the plant. The operator of the plant, Tokyo Electric Power Company, said this week that four of the six reactors there would be scrapped.

Attempts to cool the reactors and spent-fuel pools, and efforts to answer the critical question of where the radiation leaks are coming from, are being hindered by highly radioactive water in turbine buildings attached to Reactors 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Junichi Matsumoto, a Tokyo Electric Power spokesman, said at an afternoon news conference that the pumping of the contaminated water was continuing successfully.

Tokyo Electric Power said late Thursday that the groundwater near the plant had also been contaminated. The company initially said the radiation was 10,000 times the normal level, then later questioned its own data. It did the same with a report that the level of iodine 131 in seawater near the plant had fallen below 2,000 times the statutory limit, compared with a level of more than 4,000 times the limit on Thursday.

On Friday, Hidehiko Nishiyama, deputy head of the Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, said at a news conference that the government had questions about the company's figures and had asked it to review the data.

Tokyo Electric officials said they would recalculate the figures after an error was discovered in a computer program. The company has several times issued radioactivity reports only to retract them after experts questioned their validity.

Questions about the credibility of the data have added to a sense that the authorities are uncertain about what is happening inside the reactors of the damaged power plant.

In Japan, evacuees direct anger at nuclear-plant owner Tokyo Electric Power Co.(WP)

Washington Post

By Andrew Higgins, Sunday, April , 4:59 PM

TAMURA, JAPAN — When the boss of Tokyo Electric Power Co. checked into a Tokyo hospital last week with high blood pressure, he didn't get any sympathy from Tomishige Maruzoi.

"High blood pressure? We've all got high blood pressure," said Maruzoi, a 57-year-old construction worker who now sleeps on a piece of cardboard in a gymnasium. "I feel nothing but anger."

Maruzoi fled his home, less than two miles from the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, on March 12. In a fit of fury and despair, he decided last week to return and see for himself the havoc wrought by Tokyo Electric, known as Tepco.

He got into his white Subaru and set off for a 25-mile drive back to Okuma, the site of Tepco's tsunami-battered plant. Police in anti-radiation protective clothing tried to stop him at a checkpoint but, after a heated argument, let him pass. Arriving in Okuma, Maruzoi drove past cows wandering along deserted streets. He thought of "The Day After," a 1983 TV movie about the aftermath of a nuclear war.

He went, he said, because, unbelieving of everything Tepco says, he had to see with his own eyes what had happened to his home, and to a pet cat and dog he'd left behind. He stayed for less than an hour, just long enough to inspect his property, grab some clothes — and dig up some soil from his garden.

He wrapped the earth in plastic and set off back to Tamura, his dog, left behind yet again, yelping as it tried to keep up with his accelerating Subaru. Back in the gymnasium, Maruzoi had the soil tested at a radiation screening center. The Geiger counter flashed an alarm. Maruzoi quickly got rid of his contaminated sod. He also ditched all hope of returning to Okuma to live anytime soon.

"I wish I could go back, but realistically it will not be possible for 20 or 30 years," he said, smoking a cigarette outside the sports complex where he sleeps on the floor with 600 others evacuated from Okuma. With him is a son who used to work at Tepco's plant.

Before a tsunami crashed into the six-reactor complex, Maruzoi "never worried at all. They kept saying it was safe. We were brainwashed."

Now, like many others, he blames Tepco more than nature's furies for the ruin of his life. He wants the company to pay, not just in cash but also in honor.

'Beyond anger'

When Tepco sent company vice president Norio Tsuzumi here to offer apologies on March 22, Maruzoi demanded to know why the president, Masataka Shimizu, hadn't come instead.

"Where is Shimizu? Can we see Shimizu?" he asked the vice president, who had no answer and "just kept mumbling, 'Sorry, sorry.'"

Shimizu, Tepco has since revealed, was recuperating from a "small illness" due to overwork. Shimizu suffered another bout of ill health early last week and was hospitalized with hypertension and dizziness. He was still in the hospital Sunday, the company said.

At Tamura's town hall, fury at Tepco and dismay at its absentee boss is also running high.

"We are beyond anger," said Tokutaro Kato, the head of the economics section.

The town has set up three posts that monitor airborne radiation and is now waiting for equipment so it can check soil.

Kato gets bombarded with calls from farmers who want to return to abandoned farms: "I tell them, 'I'm sorry about your animals, but your life is more important. Please don't go.'"

Still more distressing, he said, was news that Tepco workers scrambling to repair the plant had been exposed to dangerously radioactive water while in the basement of a turbine building.

"I thought, what the hell is Tepco doing?" he said. "It is obvious the water there is contaminated."

Japan's nuclear regulator on Friday reprimanded Tepco for sending workers into danger without dosimeters, a device used to measure radiation exposure.

Rumors among evacuees

Filled with anxious, uprooted people, Tamura's gymnasium swirls with rumors of both doom and possible salvation, careering between despair at reports of a spike in radiation and hope stirred by whispers of a secret American powder that can purge contamination. Many, including Maruzoi, the previously fearless construction worker, now want to play it safe and are planning to move to a new shelter further inland in Aizuwakamatsu.

Tepco "betrayed us. They said everything was safe, but look at this mess," said Jiro Tochikubo, another former Okuma resident. "Of course the tsunami was higher than we all expected, but why did Tepco always say everything was definitely okay?" After the tsunami, he added, Tepco insisted that radiation definitely wasn't leaking.

"Tokyo Electric should stop using the word 'definitely,'" he said.

Like everyone here, he thinks the company must pay compensation but isn't optimistic; Tepco, burdened with huge debts even before the tsunami, now looks doomed unless the government steps in. Its credit rating has plunged; its shares have lost more than 80 percent of their value.

But not everyone is cursing. Some still remember, wistfully, how Tepco brought jobs and investment to Okuma.

"There is no point getting angry," said Kai Michiharu, who works for a waste disposal subcontractor hired by Tepco. He was finishing his shift near the unit 4 reactor when the earthquake hit. He rushed to his employer's office on higher ground.

The experience, he said, was "terrifying," but he still hopes Tepco will one day reopen at least part of Fukushima Daiichi, so he can go back to work. He got paid in full for March and will get 60 percent of his nearly \$3,000 salary for April, but he's not sure what will happen after that.

A few days ago, Michiharu got a call from his boss asking if he would be willing to work at Tepco's nuclear plant in the future. He's not keen on going back now, but "if I can't find any other work," he said, "then I'll return."

higginsandrew@washpost.com

Bodies Of 2 Missing Workers Found At Japanese Nuclear Plant (Belson, Tabuchi, NYT)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

New York Times

By Ken Belson And Hiroko Tabuchi

TOKYO — The operator of the stricken Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station said Sunday that two workers at the plant who had been missing for several days had been confirmed dead.

The operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company, said the workers were found in the basement of the turbine building connected to the plant's No. 4 reactor. The company did not say how the workers died. But various news media reports say the men lost blood and went into shock.

"It pains me that these two young workers were trying to protect the power plant while being hit by the earthquake and tsunami," Tokyo Electric's chairman, Tsunehisa Katsumata, said in a statement.

The confirmation of the deaths came a day after Japanese safety officials announced that highly radioactive water was leaking directly into the sea from a damaged pit near one of the plant's crippled reactors. The leak was the latest setback in the increasingly difficult bid to regain control of the plant.

Although higher than normal levels of radiation have been detected in the ocean water near the plant in recent days, this was the first time the source of any leaks was found.

Because the government did not report the levels of radioactive materials in the waters near the plant on Saturday, it was difficult to judge how dangerous the levels of radiation were for fish or for humans who might come in contact with it. The government has already set up an evacuation zone for 19 miles around the plant, and fishing in the area has been suspended since the earthquake and tsunami.

Hidehiko Nishiyama, deputy director general of Japan's nuclear regulator, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, said it was possible that the leak was behind the elevated radiation levels near the shore found in recent days. The government announced Saturday that higher than normal levels of radioactive materials were detected about 25 miles south of the plant, much farther than had previously been reported.

The leak, found at a maintenance pit near the plant's No. 2 reactor, is a fresh reminder of the dangerous side effects of the strategy to cool the plant's reactors and spent fuel storage pools by pumping hundreds of tons of water a day into them. While much of that water has evaporated, a significant portion has also turned into dangerous runoff.

The Japanese authorities have said they have little choice at the moment, since the normal cooling systems at the plant are inoperable and more radioactive material would be released if the reactors were allowed to melt down fully or if the rods caught fire.

"It is our hope that we can stop the emissions of radioactive materials at the latest in several months" at the power plants, said Goshi Hosono, a member of the ruling party who is an envoy between the government and Tokyo Electric.

Three workers at the plant have been injured by stepping into pools of contaminated water inside one reactor complex.

Workers racing to drain the excess water have struggled to figure out how to store it. On Saturday, some contaminated water was transferred to a barge to free up space in tanks on land. A second barge also arrived.

"The more water they add, the more problems they are generating," said Satoshi Sato, a consultant to the nuclear energy industry and a former engineer with General Electric. "It's just a matter of time before the leaks into the ocean grow."

Mr. Nishiyama said it was possible that water in the pit had leaked from the reactor, although it could have come from other sources, like leaking pipes. In either case, any leak would be exacerbated by the enormous amounts of water being used to cool the reactor.

Tetsuo Iguchi, a professor in the department of quantum engineering at Nagoya University, said that the leak discovered Saturday raised fears that contaminated water might be seeping out through many more undiscovered sources. He said that unless workers could quickly stop the leaking, Tokyo Electric could be forced to re-evaluate the so-called feed-and-bleed strategy, in which they flood the reactors and fuel ponds with water and then release the steam that the hot fuel rods generate.

"It is crucial to keep cooling the fuel rods, but on the other hand, these leaks are dangerous," Mr. Iguchi said. "They can't let the plant keep leaking high amounts of radiation for much longer," he said.

Plant workers discovered a crack about eight inches wide in the small maintenance pit, which lies between the No. 2 Reactor and the sea and holds cables used to power seawater pumps, Japan's nuclear regulator said.

The space directly above the water leaking into the sea had a radiation reading of more than 1,000 millisieverts per hour, Mr. Nishiyama said, a level that could be dangerous to humans. Tests of the water within the pit later showed the presence of one million becquerels per liter of

iodine 131, a radioactive substance. That level of iodine is 10,000 times what is normal for water at the plant. However, iodine 131 has a half life of about eight days.

At the time the leak was discovered, the approximately 6-foot-deep pit was filled with four to eight inches of contaminated water, according to Tokyo Electric. But it was impossible to immediately judge how much water had escaped and over how long a period of time.

Workers had tried to fill the crack with concrete on Saturday, but it appeared not to be setting, Mr. Nishiyama said early Sunday. He said they would switch to using polymer to try to plug the gap later Sunday.

The crisis at the nuclear plant has overshadowed the recovery effort under way in Japan since the 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami on March 11 that started the problems at Fukushima Daiichi. The country's National Police Agency said the official death toll from the disaster had surpassed 11,800, while more than 15,500 were missing.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Naoto Kan made his first visit to the region since the disaster, and he promised to do everything possible to help.

"We'll be together with you to the very end," Mr. Kan said during a stop in Rikuzentakata, a town of about 20,000 people that was destroyed. "Everybody, try your best."

Ken Ijichi and Moshe Komata contributed reporting.

Tsunami Killed 2 Workers At Japan Nuclear Plant (Nakashima, Yamaguchi, AP)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Associated Press

By Ryan Nakashima And Mari Yamaguchi

The utility that runs a tsunami-crippled Japanese nuclear power plant says two workers were killed when the wave swept ashore more than three weeks ago.

Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s announcement Sunday is the first confirmation of deaths at the plant. The workers had been missing since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Spokesman Naoki Tsunoda said the bodies were found Wednesday and had to be decontaminated. The announcement was delayed out of consideration for the families.

Radiation has been spewing from the plant since the tsunami knocked out cooling systems there, causing the reactors to dangerously overheat.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

TOKYO (AP) — Engineers failed to seal a crack where highly radioactive water was spilling into the Pacific from a Japanese nuclear plant incapacitated by last month's tsunami, but said a search of the site found no other leaks Sunday.

A picture released by the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., shows water shooting some distance away from a wall and splashing into the sea, though the amount of water was not clear. The contaminated water will quickly dissipate in the ocean but could pose a danger to workers at the plant.

Pooling water at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex — which is believed to ultimately come from the reactor cores — has repeatedly forced technicians to pull back and suspend their work.

After a massive tsunami knocked out power to the plant on March 11, cooling systems failed and the reactors have been dangerously overheating since. A series of almost daily problems has led to substantial amounts of radiation leaking into the atmosphere, ground and sea in the world's worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 meltdown at Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union.

The disaster carved a path of destruction up and down the northeastern coast and is believed to have left about 25,000 dead. Sunday marks the last day of an all-out joint search by the U.S. and Japanese militaries for bodies in coastal waters. The effort is probably the final hope for retrieving the dead.

So far, 12,000 deaths have been confirmed, and another 15,400 people are missing.

On Saturday, workers discovered an 8-inch- (20-centimeter-) long crack in a maintenance pit at the Fukushima plant that they said was believed to have been caused by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that generated the wave. Water containing levels of radioactive iodine far above the legal limit spilled from it into the Pacific, said Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

Workers flooded the pit with concrete in an effort to seal the crack but couldn't get it to dry. They plan to try polymer on Sunday, possibly creating a seal farther up in the system.

Over the past 10 days, pools of contaminated water have been found throughout the plant and high levels of radioactivity have been measured in the ocean, but this marks the first time authorities said they had found a spot where the water was directly entering the sea.

A search of the plant found no other similar leaks leading directly to the ocean. "We believe that's the only crack," said Naoki Tsunoda, a TEPCO spokesman.

People living within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the plant have been evacuated, but, as with previous leaks, it could pose a danger to workers.

A nuclear plant worker who fell into the ocean Friday while trying to board a barge carrying water to help cool the plant did not show any immediate signs of being exposed to unsafe levels of radiation, nuclear safety officials said Saturday, but they were waiting for test results to be sure.

Workers have been reluctant to talk to the media about what they are experiencing, but one who spent several days at the plant described difficult conditions in an anonymous interview published Saturday in the national Mainichi newspaper.

When he was called in mid-March to help restore power at the plant, he said he did not tell his family because he did not want them to worry. But he did tell a friend to notify his parents if he did not return in two weeks.

"I feel very strongly that there is nobody but us to do this job, and we cannot go home until we finish the work," he said.

Early on, the company ran out of full radiation suits, forcing workers to create improvised versions of items such as nylon booties they were supposed to pull over their shoes.

Radiation worries have compounded the misery for people trying to recover from the tsunami. Prime Minister Naoto Kan made his first visit to the pulverized coast on Saturday and pledged to stand by those struggling to rebuild their lives.

"The government fully supports you until the end," Kan told 250 people at an elementary school in Rikuzentakata serving as a shelter.

Two Workers' Bodies Recovered At Fukushima Nuclear Plant (Makinen, Hall, LAT)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Los Angeles Times

By Julie Makinen And Kenji Hall

In the first confirmation of fatalities at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex, the plant's operator on Sunday announced the recovery of the bodies of two workers who had gone missing after the devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Yoshiki Terashima, 21, and Kazuhiko Kokubo, 24, had rushed to the turbine room of the No. 4 reactor to inspect the power switches and test the operation valves after the March 11 earthquake. An autopsy revealed that they likely died from the force of impact from the tsunami.

Their bodies were found in the building's basement Wednesday afternoon and had to be decontaminated, the company said, adding the announcement was delayed out of consideration for the families.

On Saturday, Tepco said highly radioactive water was leaking from a pit near a reactor into the ocean, which may partly explain the high levels of radioactivity that have been found in seawater off the coast.

Tepco said it had detected an 8-inch crack in the concrete pit holding power cables near reactor No. 2 and was working to seal the fracture. Tepco said the water was coming directly from the reactor and the radiation level was 1,000 millisieverts an hour. The annual limit of radiation exposure allowed for Fukushima workers is 250 millisieverts.

Workers pumped concrete into the shaft Saturday, but by the end of the day the flow of water into the ocean had not diminished. Engineers speculated that the water was preventing the concrete from setting, allowing it to be washed away.

Tepco officials said that on Sunday morning they would explore using a polymer — a type of quick-setting plastic — to plug the leak.

After spraying thousands of tons of water on the reactors at Fukushima over the last three weeks to keep them from overheating and releasing dangerous amounts of radiation over a wide area, Tepco is faced with the problem of great volumes of contaminated water.

With storage tanks at the facility nearing capacity, Tepco is contemplating storing the water in a giant artificial floating island offshore, Kyodo News reported. Tepco, which has been monitoring radiation levels in seawater just offshore from the plant, said it would begin sampling about nine miles off the coast.

Workers have also been spraying the grounds of the plant with a polymer in an attempt to prevent any radioactive isotopes that have been deposited there from escaping from the vicinity of the plant. The polymer acts like a kind of super-glue, binding any contaminants to the soil so they cannot be blown away.

As 25,000 Japanese and U.S. forces continued an intensive search for corpses along the tsunami-battered coastline of northern Japan, the official death toll climbed to 11,938 and the number of missing fell to 15,748, the National Police Agency said.

The number of people in emergency shelters has declined to about 165,000 from more than 200,000 in the days immediately after the massive earthquake and tsunami March 11. But concerns are growing about the health of elderly residents at the shelters, some of which still lack enough kerosene to run heaters round-the-clock. Many areas of northern Japan are still experiencing subfreezing temperatures.

A report Saturday from public broadcaster NHK reported the deaths of some elderly people who had survived the disaster. The broadcaster described harsh conditions facing older survivors, including crowded quarters, interruptions in medical regimens and a discontinuation of services such as physical therapy.

In a bit of good news, NHK reported that coast guard officials had found a dog on the roof of a house floating in waters off Miyagi prefecture. The dog, which apparently had been stranded for three weeks, was emaciated and gobbled down sausages and cookies after being saved.

julie.makinen@latimes.com

Hall is a special correspondent.

Times staff writer Thomas H. Maugh II contributed to this story from Los Angeles.

Engineers Fail To Seal Leak At Japan Nuke Plant (Nakashima, Yamaguchi, AP)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Associated Press

By Ryan Nakashima And Mari Yamaguchi

TOKYO – Engineers failed to seal a crack where highly radioactive water was spilling into the Pacific from a Japanese nuclear power plant incapacitated by last month's earthquake-spawned tsunami but said a search of the site found no other leaks Sunday.

The wave has carved a path of destruction up and down the coast and is believed to have killed 25,000 people. The first deaths at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant itself, though, were confirmed Sunday by the operator. A 21-year-old and a 24-year-old were believed to be conducting regular checks at the complex when the 9.0-magnitude earthquake hit March 11.

"It pains me that these two young workers were trying to protect the power plant while being hit by the earthquake and tsunami," Tokyo Electric Power Co. Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata said in a statement.

It was unclear why the men did not evacuate when the quake hit.

The bodies were not discovered until Wednesday and had to be decontaminated. The announcement was delayed out of respect for the victims' families, TEPCO spokesman Naoki Tsunoda said.

Radiation has been spewing from the plant, leaking into the air, ground and sea. On Saturday, authorities discovered a crack from which radioactive water was spilling into the Pacific — the first time they identified a direct source of sea contamination.

A picture released by TEPCO shows water shooting some distance away from a wall and splashing into the sea, though the amount of water was not clear. The contaminated water will quickly dissipate in the ocean but could pose a danger to workers at the plant.

Pooling water at the nuclear complex — which is believed to ultimately come from the reactor cores — has repeatedly forced technicians to pull back and suspend their work.

After the massive tsunami knocked out power to the plant three weeks ago, cooling systems failed, and the reactors have been dangerously overheating since. A series of almost daily problems has led to substantial amounts of radiation leaking into the atmosphere, ground and sea in the world's worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 meltdown at Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union.

The 8-inch- (20-centimeter-) long crack in a maintenance pit at the Fukushima plant is believed to have been caused by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that generated the wave. Water containing levels of radioactive iodine far above the legal limit spilled from it into the Pacific, said Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

Workers flooded the pit with concrete in an effort to seal the crack but couldn't get it to dry.

Next, they plan to inject polymer into a pipe that connects the pit to the rest of the system. Polymer can absorb enormous amounts of water and expands 50 times its original size.

Over the past 10 days, pools of contaminated water have been found throughout the plant and high levels of radioactivity have been measured in the ocean.

A search of the plant found no other similar leaks leading directly to the ocean. "We believe that's the only crack," said Tsunoda.

People living within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the plant have been evacuated, but, as with previous leaks, it could pose a danger to workers.

A nuclear plant worker who fell into the ocean Friday while trying to board a barge carrying water to help cool the plant did not show any immediate signs of being exposed to unsafe levels of radiation, nuclear safety officials said Saturday, but they were waiting for test results to be sure.

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Radiation worries have compounded the misery for people trying to recover from the tsunami. So far, 12,000 deaths have been confirmed, and another 15,400 people are missing.

Sunday marks the last day of an all-out joint search by the U.S. and Japanese militaries for bodies in coastal waters. The effort is probably the final hope for retrieving the dead.

Associated Press writers Eugene Hoshiko in Rikuzentakata and Mayumi Saito and Shino Yuasa in Tokyo contributed to this report.

From Far Labs, A Vivid Picture Emerges Of Japan Crisis (Broad, NYT)

Sunday, April 3, 2011

New York Times

By William J. Broad

For the clearest picture of what is happening at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, talk to scientists thousands of miles away.

Thanks to the unfamiliar but sophisticated art of atomic forensics, experts around the world have been able to document the situation vividly. Over decades, they have become very good at illuminating the hidden workings of nuclear power plants from afar, turning scraps of information into detailed analyses.

For example, an analysis by a French energy company revealed far more about the condition of the plant's reactors than the Japanese have ever described: water levels at the reactor cores dropping by as much as three-quarters, and temperatures in those cores soaring to nearly 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to burn and melt the zirconium casings that protect the fuel rods.

Scientists in Europe and America also know from observing the explosions of hydrogen gas at the plant that the nuclear fuel rods had heated to very dangerous levels, and from radioactive plumes how far the rods had disintegrated.

At the same time, the evaluations also show that the reactors at Fukushima Daiichi escaped the deadliest outcomes — a complete meltdown of the plant.

Most of these computer-based forensics systems were developed after the 1979 partial meltdown at Three Mile Island, when regulators found they were essentially blind to what was happening in the reactor. Since then, to satisfy regulators, companies that run nuclear power plants use snippets of information coming out of a plant to develop simulations of what is happening inside and to perform a variety of risk evaluations.

Indeed, the detailed assessments of the Japanese reactors that Energy Secretary Steven Chu gave on Friday — when he told reporters that about 70 percent of the core of one reactor had been damaged, and that another reactor had undergone a 33 percent meltdown — came from forensic modeling.

The bits of information that drive these analyses range from the simple to the complex. They can include everything from the length of time a reactor core lacked cooling water to the subtleties of the gases and radioactive particles being emitted from the plant. Engineers feed the data points into computer simulations that churn out detailed portraits of the imperceptible, including many specifics on the melting of the hot fuel cores.

Governments and companies now possess dozens of these independently developed computer programs, known in industry jargon as “safety codes.” Many of these institutions — including ones in Japan — are relying on forensic modeling to analyze the disaster at Fukushima Daiichi to plan for a range of activities, from evacuations to forecasting the likely outcome.

“The codes got better and better” after the accident at Three Mile Island revealed the poor state of reactor assessment, said Michael W. Golay, a professor of nuclear science and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

These portraits of the Japanese disaster tend to be proprietary and confidential, and in some cases secret. One reason the assessments are enormously sensitive for industry and government is the relative lack of precedent: The atomic age has seen the construction of nearly 600 civilian power plants, but according to the World Nuclear Association, only three have undergone serious accidents in which their fuel cores melted down.

Now, as a result of the crisis in Japan, the atomic simulations suggest that the number of serious accidents has suddenly doubled, with three of the reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi complex in some stage of meltdown. Even so, the public authorities have sought to avoid grim technical details that might trigger alarm or even panic.

“They don’t want to go there,” said Robert Alvarez, a nuclear expert who, from 1993 to 1999, was a policy adviser to the secretary of energy. “The spin is all about reassurance.”

If events in Japan unfold as they did at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, the forensic modeling could go on for some time. It took more than three years before engineers lowered a camera to visually inspect the damaged core of the Pennsylvania reactor, and another year to map the extent of the destruction. The core turned out to be about half melted.

By definition, a meltdown is the severe overheating of the core of a nuclear reactor that results in either the partial or full liquefaction of its uranium fuel and supporting metal lattice, at times with the atmospheric release of deadly radiation. Partial meltdowns usually strike a core’s middle regions instead of the edge, where temperatures are typically lower.

The main meltdowns of the past at civilian plants were Three Mile Island in 1979, the St.-Laurent reactor in France in 1980, and Chernobyl in Ukraine in 1986.

One of the first safety codes to emerge after Three Mile Island was the Modular Accident Analysis Program. Running on a modest computer, it simulates reactor crises based on such information as the duration of a power blackout and the presence of invisible wisps of radioactive materials.

Robert E. Henry, a developer of the code at Fauske & Associates, an engineering company near Chicago, said that a first sign of major trouble at any reactor was the release of hydrogen — a highly flammable gas that has fueled several large explosions at Fukushima Daiichi. The gas, he said in an interview, indicated that cooling water had fallen low, exposing the hot fuel rods.

The next alarms, Dr. Henry said, centered on various types of radioactivity that signal increasingly high core temperatures and melting.

First, he said, “as the core gets hotter and hotter,” easily evaporated products of atomic fission — like iodine 131 and cesium 137 — fly out. If temperatures rise higher, threatening to melt the core entirely, he added, less volatile products such as strontium 90 and plutonium 239 join the rising plume.

The lofting of the latter particles in large quantities points to “substantial fuel melting,” Dr. Henry said.

He added that he and his colleagues modeled the Japanese accident in its first days and discerned partial — not full — core melting.

Micro-Simulation Technology, a software company in Montville, N.J., used its own computer code to model the Japanese accident. It found core temperatures in the reactors soaring as high as 2,250 degrees Celsius, or more than 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit — hot enough to liquefy many reactor metals.

“Some portion of the core melted,” said Li-chi Cliff Po, the company’s president. He called his methods simpler than most industry simulations, adding that the Japanese disaster was relatively easy to model because the observable facts of the first hours and days were so unrelentingly bleak — “no water in, no injection” to cool the hot cores.

“I don’t think there’s any mystery or foul play,” Dr. Po said of the disaster’s scale. “It’s just so bad.”

The big players in reactor modeling are federal laboratories and large nuclear companies such as General Electric, Westinghouse and Areva, a French group that supplied reactor fuel to the Japanese complex.

The Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque wrote one of the most respected codes. It models whole plants and serves as a main tool of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Washington agency that oversees the nation’s reactors.

Areva and French agencies use a reactor code-named Cathare, a complicated acronym that also refers to a kind of goat’s milk cheese.

On March 21, Stanford University presented an invitation-only panel discussion on the Japanese crisis that featured Alan Hansen, an executive vice president of Areva NC, a unit of the company focused on the nuclear fuel cycle.

“Clearly,” he told the audience, “we’re witnessing one of the greatest disasters in modern time.”

Dr. Hansen, a nuclear engineer, presented a slide show that he said the company’s German unit had prepared. That division, he added, “has been analyzing this accident in great detail.”

The presentation gave a blow-by-blow of the accident’s early hours and days. It said drops in cooling water exposed up to three-quarters of the reactor cores, and that peak temperatures hit 2,700 degrees Celsius, or more than 4,800 degrees Fahrenheit. That’s hot enough to melt steel and zirconium — the main ingredient in the metallic outer shell of a fuel rod, known as the cladding.

“Zirconium in the cladding starts to burn,” said the slide presentation. At the peak temperature, it continued, the core experienced “melting of uranium-zirconium eutectics,” a reactor alloy.

A slide with a cutaway illustration of a reactor featured a glowing hot mass of melted fuel rods in the middle of the core and noted “release of fission products” during meltdown. The products are radioactive fragments of split atoms that can result in cancer and other serious illnesses.

Stanford, where Dr. Hansen is a visiting scholar, posted the slides online after the March presentation. At that time, each of the roughly 30 slides was marked with the Areva symbol or name, and each also gave the name of their author, Matthias Braun.

The posted document was later changed to remove all references to Areva, and Dr. Braun and Areva did not reply to questions about what simulation code or codes the company may have used to arrive at its analysis of the Fukushima disaster.

"We cannot comment on that," Jarret Adams, a spokesman for Areva, said of the slide presentation. The reason, he added, was "because it was not an officially released document."

A European atomic official monitoring the Fukushima crisis expressed sympathy for Japan's need to rely on forensics to grasp the full dimensions of the unfolding disaster.

"Clearly, there's no access to the core," the official said. "The Japanese are honestly blind."

As Fukushima Fallout Circles The Globe, Nuclear Sleuths Sift It For Clues (Vastag, WP)

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Washington Post

By Brian Vastag

Three weeks into the nuclear crisis in Japan, minute traces of radioactive dust have circled the globe, even arriving in Maryland and Virginia.

Fallout from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has landed on 30 exquisitely sensitive detectors on desolate Arctic islands, on the tops of tall buildings and in other windy locales across the Northern Hemisphere, according to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, which maintains those sensors. Sniffing the air like silent sentinels, the 63 shack-like stations (with 17 more planned) are capturing tiny radioactive particles in filters much like those on a home furnace.

Analysis of that dust is a key step in an intricate process of nuclear sleuthing: The dust's distinctive chemical signature can show scientists whether the particles blew into the air from a bomb, a damaged nuclear reactor or used uranium fuel. It can even point to the extent of damage suffered by a fission reactor. Tracing global wind patterns back then pinpoints where the emissions originated.

"It's nuclear forensics," said Kai Vetter, a professor of nuclear engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, who built his own radiation detector atop a campus building after the Fukushima crisis began.

"You can learn quite a lot from the pattern of radioactive isotopes," said Hamish Robertson, a physicist at the University of Washington in Seattle.

In the United States, another network of more than 100 stations maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency is also gathering radioactivity from Japan. State health departments maintain their own monitoring systems, which is how Maryland detected tiny traces in the air and water March 24.

Super-sensitive detection

After the March 11 earthquake and tsunami damaged Fukushima, the global sensor network began to light up for the first time since nuclear detonations in North Korea in 2006 and 2009.

On March 14, a station on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia sniffed out unusual radioactive elements. That cloud then split, drifting southward and eastward, with one arm arriving two days later in Sacramento, and three days after that in Charlottesville. On March 20, the ultra-thin broth of radioactive particles blew over Iceland. And it reached all the way to Kuwait City on March 25, two weeks after the first emissions from Fukushima.

The reporting of even these minuscule amounts of unusual radiation has caused alarm, driving a run on potassium iodide pills and Geiger counters. But officials at the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and independent experts have repeatedly stressed that the amount of radioactivity detected outside Japan is far too low to affect human health.

Modern radiation detection systems are simply astoundingly sensitive, they explain, designed to pick up traces of nuclear explosions anywhere in the world. The detector atop the CTBTO's headquarters in Vienna, Austria, still catches vestiges of the Chernobyl disaster that occurred 25 years ago, said Lassina Zerbo, director of the group's international data center.

Vetter's detector at Berkeley even catches radioactivity on the wind from treatments received by thyroid cancer patients passing by six stories below.

Taking radioactive fingerprints

Natural radiation — mostly from airborne radon — “drowns out” the radiation from Fukushima spotted in the United States, said Michael Miller, a University of Washington physicist who, along with Robertson, helped construct a radiation detector in a campus building's air intake duct.

So a sensor that simply measured the total amount of radiation from airborne particles would be useless in nuclear forensics. Modern detectors do much more. They outline the dust's distinctive radioactive fingerprint by measuring precise concentrations of five or more radioactive elements, or isotopes.

Each atom of these isotopes is unstable, shedding excess energy — via radiation — in a process called decay. By measuring the form and intensity of this energy, the radiation detectives can identify the isotopes in play and deduce from them what might have happened.

Radioactive iodine-131 and cesium-137 are key to this process. They don't exist in nature, so their appearance signals a nuclear event — either a bomb or a reactor in trouble. Both can cause health problems in large amounts. But iodine-131 decays relatively rapidly: After eight days, half the original amount is gone. Its presence means that the event that created it occurred just weeks beforehand. Cesium-137 takes much longer to decay, with a half-life of 30 years. Traces of cesium-137 from Chernobyl still waft on Earth's great jetstreams.

Clues in the air

It was detective work of this kind that alerted the world to the world's worst nuclear disaster 25 years ago. In April 1986, nuclear power plant workers in Sweden detected a spike in iodine-131 and cesium-137, which — after a check of wind patterns — revealed the unfolding disaster at Chernobyl, which the Soviet Union had not disclosed.

Because both isotopes can come from a bomb or a reactor, nuclear sleuths also search for another isotope that originates only in reactors: cesium-134. It is produced during the slow-boil nuclear fission inside reactors, but not the flash-bang of a nuclear explosion. The ad-hoc sensors built by

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:47 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

News

3 new results for **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

NRC focused on VY safety, not shutdown

Brattleboro Reformer

By JOSH STILTS / Reformer Staff BRATTLEBORO -- Last week the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** addressed the concerns of the Safe and Green Campaign regarding the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. In a letter sent to Robert Bady, Vermont coordinator of ...

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Operators say failed valve not a threat

Times Daily

By Trevor Stokes Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant operators told federal regulators Monday that a valve in the cooling system failed because of a manufacturing deficiency and that the failed valve was never a safety threat. The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** ...

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Editorial: Keep nuclear power in mix

The Detroit News

The president also said the government would incorporate lessons learned from the crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, the Wall Street Journal reports, has stepped up inspections at the three facilities out ...

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Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 6:35 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Wednesday, April 20, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Budget deal funds fourth round of federal energy innovation grants

Drilling fluid gushes from northern Pa. gas well

UN chief: More nuclear accidents are likely

Blankenship's 2010 pay fell 48 percent at Massey

Scientists: Soot may be key to rapid Arctic melt

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China expected to lead in electric vehicle ownership by 2020

Japan considering legal force to bar residents from evacuation zone

Daybook: Upcoming events

Budget deal funds fourth round of federal energy innovation grants

By Edward Felker

BU/1112

Energy Secretary Steven Chu on Wednesday announced \$130 million in funding approved by Congress this month for five new small-scale programs to encourage energy technology advances.

The money marks the fourth round of funding under the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, or ARPA-E program created in the economic stimulus law enacted in 2009.

President Barack Obama last week won in the 2011 continuing budget resolution another \$180 million for the program, a key, if relatively low-cost part of his American technology innovation platform. Money from that law will pay for the programs announced Tuesday.

"We're extremely pleased that Congress provided funds for ARPA-E in the recent passing of the continuing resolution. This will allow us to build on the progress we've made," Chu told reporters. He called the money a "big victory" because it was created by the stimulus bill and was not a part of the routine Energy Department budget requests to Congress. "We did know that without additional congressional funds...the program would have essentially had to have been put on ice. Any new projects would not have been funded," Chu added.

The program has already awarded \$363 million total for 121 projects in 30 states, and attracted more than \$100 million in private sector investments into supported technologies. The stimulus law provided \$400 million for the program.

The programs announced Wednesday will seek to reduce reliance on imported rare earth minerals used in high tech products, lower the cost of biofuels production, advance the use of thermal energy storage at power plants, and improve electric grid and solar power electronics.

Drilling fluid gushes from northern Pa. gas well

By Michael Rubinkam

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A blowout at a natural gas well in rural northern Pennsylvania spilled thousands of gallons of chemical-laced water Wednesday, contaminating a stream and forcing the evacuation of seven families who live nearby as crews struggled to stop the gusher.

Chesapeake Energy Corp. lost control of the well site near Canton, in Bradford County, around 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, officials said. Tainted water continued to flow from the site Wednesday afternoon, though workers finally managed to prevent any more of it from reaching the stream.

No injuries were reported, and there was no explosion or fire.

"As a precautionary measure, seven families who live near the location have been temporarily relocated until all agencies involved are confident the situation has been contained. There have been no injuries or natural gas emissions to the atmosphere," Chesapeake spokesman Brian Grove said in a statement.

Chesapeake said a piece of equipment failed late Tuesday while the well was being hydraulically fractured, or fracked. In the fracking process, millions of gallons of water, along with chemical additives and sand, are injected at high pressure down the well bore to break up the shale and release the gas.

State environmental regulators were taking water samples from the unnamed tributary of Towanda Creek on Wednesday but did not report a fish kill. Towanda Creek is stocked with trout.

Officials advised a neighboring farmer to prevent his cows from drinking surface water, according to DEP spokeswoman Katy Gresh.

She said reports from the scene indicate that fracking water was gushing from the wellhead, pooling on the pad, then escaping containment.

"Discharge of fluids to the unnamed tributary appears to be stopped," she said.

The blowout comes amid a natural gas-drilling boom in the Marcellus Shale formation below Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Fracking allows affordable access to gas supplies that once were too expensive to tap. Critics complain that the chemicals used in fracking may be contaminating water supplies.

UN chief: More nuclear accidents are likely

By Jim Heintz

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The world must prepare for more nuclear accidents on the scale of Chernobyl and Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, the U.N. chief warned Wednesday, saying that grim reality will demand sharp improvements in international cooperation.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and others portrayed the growth of nuclear power plants as inevitable in an energy-hungry world as they spoke at a Kiev conference commemorating the explosion of a reactor at Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear reactor 25 years ago.

"To many, nuclear energy looks to be a relatively clean and logical choice in an era of increasing resource scarcity. Yet the record requires us to ask painful questions: have we correctly calculated its risks and costs? Are we doing all we can to keep the world's people safe?" Ban said. "The unfortunate truth is that we

are likely to see more such disasters.”

During a brief visit to the explosion site 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the Ukrainian capital earlier in the day, Ban proposed a strategy for improving nuclear energy security worldwide, including strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency and devoting more attention to “the new nexus between natural disasters and nuclear safety.”

The ongoing crisis at Japan’s Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant was triggered by last month’s huge earthquake and the ensuing tsunami that flooded the plant.

“Climate change means more incidents of freak weather,” Ban said in Kiev. “Our vulnerability will only grow.”

IAEA head Yukiya Amano, who accompanied Ban on the trip to Chernobyl, echoed those sentiments.

“Many countries will continue to find nuclear power an important option in the future, and that is why we have to do our utmost to ensure safety,” he said, speaking a few hundred yards (meters) from the exploded reactor, which is now covered by a hastily erected sarcophagus.

The sarcophagus has gone past its expected service life and work has begun to build an enormous shelter that will be rolled over the reactor building. The new shelter, designed to last 100 years, is expected to be in place by 2015, but a substantial amount of money for the project is still lacking.

An international donors conference Tuesday in Kiev sought to raise euro740 million (\$1.1 billion) for the shelter and a storage facility for the spent fuel at the plant’s other decommissioned reactors. But in the face of global economic problems, some countries held back from making funding promises and the pledges only came to euro550 million (\$798 million).

The Chernobyl explosion on April 26, 1986, spewed a cloud of radioactive fallout over much of Europe and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes in the most heavily hit areas. A 30-kilometer (19-mile) area radiating from the plant remains uninhabited except for some plant workers who rotate in and several hundred local people who returned to their homes despite official warnings.

Zsuzsanna Jacob of the U.N.’s World Health Organization told the Kiev conference that some 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer had been diagnosed among people who were children and teens when exposed to the fallout. She said more cases are expected although “the magnitude is difficult to quantify.”

Among the 600,000 people most heavily exposed to radiation—which apparently include the estimated 240,000 who worked on the first and most dangerous phase of the plant repair and clean-up—Jacob expects 4,000 more

cancer deaths than average to be eventually found.

The U.N. figures have been criticized by the environmental group Greenpeace and others as severely understating Chernobyl's consequences. Even the lower figures represent "an unacceptable price paid by the affected communities," Jacob said.

Ban and others said the Chernobyl and Japan accidents highlighted the need for improved communication between countries about their nuclear programs. And Thorbjorn Jagland, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, drew a political lesson from the crises.

"The more complex technologies become, the more complex societies become, the more important it is to involve civil societies, to have democratic institutions, a free press," he said.

Soviet authorities kept the Chernobyl disaster unreported for several days, and Japanese authorities have been criticized for initially providing insufficient information.

Blankenship's 2010 pay fell 48 percent at Massey

By Tim Huber

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Retired Massey Energy Co. chief Don Blankenship's total compensation fell 48 percent in 2010 as he tried to right the struggling company following the nation's deadliest coal mine explosion in decades, an Associated Press analysis of a regulatory filing shows.

Blankenship earned just over \$9 million in total compensation last year, compared with \$17.3 million in 2009.

Blankenship abruptly retired from Richmond, Va.-based Massey in December and the compensation figures don't include his \$12 million retirement package. He received \$2 million Dec. 31 and is due to get the rest July 1.

His replacement, Baxter Phillips, took over in early December, but isn't expected to hold the job for long. Phillips is leaving the top spot when Massey's \$7.1 billion takeover by rival Alpha Natural Resources closes this summer.

Massey made big changes in Blankenship's pay in 2010. The company cut his non-equity incentive compensation to \$7.4 million, a 36 percent decrease from the \$11.5 million he received in 2009.

The company also awarded Blankenship no stock for 2010. In 2009, he was awarded stock valued at \$3.86 million at the time it was granted.

Blankenship's salary dipped 4 percent to \$900,000 last year, from \$933,369 in

2009. His other compensation decreased 25 percent to \$459,437, from \$609,875. The bulk of his other income — \$382,439 — covered perks including company cars, auto insurance and personal use of company aircraft, which Massey valued at \$179,097.

The Associated Press formula calculates an executive's total compensation during the last fiscal year by adding salary, bonuses, perks, above-market interest the company pays on deferred compensation and the estimated value of stock and stock options awarded during the year. The AP formula does not count changes in the present value of pension benefits. That makes the AP total slightly different in most cases from the total reported by companies to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The value that a company assigned to an executive's stock and option awards for 2010 was the present value of what the company expected the awards to be worth to the executive over time.

Companies use one of several formulas to calculate that value. However, the number is just an estimate, and what an executive ultimately receives will depend on the performance of the company's stock in the years after the awards are granted. Most stock compensation programs require an executive to wait a specified amount of time to receive shares or exercise options.

Scientists: Soot may be key to rapid Arctic melt

By Randolph Schmid

WASHINGTON (AP) — An international research team is in the land of snow and ice, in search of soot.

Though the Arctic is often pictured as a vast white wasteland, scientists believe a thin layer of soot, mostly invisible, is causing it to absorb more heat. They want to find out if that is the main reason for the recent rapid warming of the Arctic, which could have a long-term impact on the world's climate.

Soot, or black carbon, is produced by auto and truck engines, aircraft emissions, burning forests and the use of wood- or coal-burning stoves.

"The Arctic serves as the air conditioner of the planet," explained Patricia Quinn of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, one of the research participants. Heat from other parts of the Earth moves to the Arctic in the circulating air and ocean water, and at least some of that warmth can radiate into space.

At the same time, some of the incoming heat from the sun that tends to be absorbed in other locations is reflected by the ice and snow, which allows the polar regions to serve as cooling agents for the planet.

That may be changing.

In recent years, the Arctic has been warming more rapidly than other regions and, Quinn pointed out, the "warming of the Arctic has implications not just for polar bears, but for the entire planet."

Cutting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is the backbone of any effort to combat warming, both globally and within the Arctic, Quinn said.

Studies indicate that cutting the concentration of short-lived pollutants, such as soot, will reduce the rate of warming in the Arctic faster than cuts in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which last far longer in the atmosphere, she said. "This is a buying-time approach."

In February, the United Nations Environmental Program urged cuts in soot emissions for a variety of reasons, including the threat to human health from inhaling it and the potential warming of the polar regions. Others also have raised concerns about pollution from soot.

The Arctic Council, which represents the eight countries that border the Arctic, is deciding whether to seek reductions in soot from other nations and will be using data from the international research project in its deliberations.

Issa says Obama continues 'permitorium' on offshore drilling

In an op-ed in the National Review, House Oversight and Government Reform chairman Darrell Issa accuses the Obama administration of continuing to hold back offshore drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

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BP's Dudley pledges more safety on anniversary of spill

A year after the Gulf oil spill, BP chief executive Robert Dudley promised in a Facebook post Wednesday to work to "strengthen safety and risk management" at the company.

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Families of lost Deepwater Horizon workers still grieve

The deaths of 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon rig continue to pose challenges for their families, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Domestic nuclear power output dips to four-year low

Bloomberg reports that U.S. nuclear power generation is currently at lows not seen since 2006, with 29 reactors offline.

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Opponents of Oyster Creek relicensing await court decision

Sierra Club and other opponents who appealed the NRC's decision to re-license the Oyster Creek nuclear plant in New Jersey are awaiting a decision from a federal court, WNYC reports.

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China expected to lead in electric vehicle ownership by 2020

A consultant for the World Bank tells Bloomberg that electric vehicle ownership in China may reach 2.2 million by 2020, compared with 1.5 million in the United States.

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Japan considering legal force to bar residents from evacuation zone

As residents venture back into the voluntary evacuation zone around the Fukushima nuclear station, Japanese authorities are seeking to impose a legal ban, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 21, Washington: Electric Drive Transportation Association meeting concludes. 8:30 am, Washington Convention Center.
- Apr. 21, Washington: SAIS forum, "Energy Hungry Tigers and Dragons: Comparing India and China's Energy Sector Development Strategies." 10:00 am, 1740 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
- Apr. 21, Bohemia, N.Y.: Energy Secretary Chu, HUD Secretary Donovan unveil new home energy retrofit loan program for low-income borrowers. 11:30 am, Energy Testing Services, 1648 Locust Ave.
- Apr. 21, Reno, Nev.: President Obama holds town hall at Reno, Nev. renewable energy company ElectraTherm, on deficit reduction. 11:50 am, 4750 Turbo Circle.

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From: Steve Andreadis <sandreadis@bulletinnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:32 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Bulletin News
Subject: Re: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Good evening Mr. Brenner.

Thank you for pointing out this link. It will be included in today's briefing. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do for you.

Steve Andreadis
Bulletin News

From: "Eliot Brenner" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: "Bulletin News" <NRC-Editors@BulletinNews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2011 4:28:33 AM
Subject: FW: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Fyi if you do not have.

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 4:26 AM
To: Davies, Glyn T; Wood, Robert A; Scheland, Mark DL; Shaffer, Mark R; Cooper, Nathan J; Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; Brenner, Eliot; Clark, Jeanne L; Schlachter, Mark M; Cooper, Kurtis A; Wong, Yvette M; Milich, Daniel S; Connor, Julie G; Cook, Nerissa J; Nossel, Suzanne F
Subject: Fw: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Jennifer Hall Godfrey <jennyg1973@yahoo.com>
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Sent: Tue Apr 05 10:19:32 2011
Subject: Reuters: Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

Our atom plants safe, US and Europe regulators say

VIENNA, April 4 (Reuters) - Nuclear power plants in the United States and Europe are safe, regulators said on Monday, promising to look at ways to strengthen safety further in the wake of Japan's atomic disaster.

Japan is battling to stabilise a nuclear power plant after a huge earthquake and tsunami devastated it three weeks ago. Radioactivity from the stricken site has contaminated land, air and sea and forced a review of atomic power plans worldwide.

"Back in the United States, because of similarities in the design and because of the possibility for natural disasters of this type in the United States, we ask questions about our own facilities and our own approach to regulation," U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko said.

"Let me say firmly that we believe right now plants in the United States are safe. We believe we have a very strong programme in place to ensure that safety," he told reporters.

He was making his remarks after the opening of a two-week conference of nuclear regulators from 72 countries in Vienna hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Although scheduled before the earthquake, the conference to review the 1996 Convention on Nuclear Safety is focusing on the need to strengthen measures in light of Japan's emergency.

European leaders want to subject reactors to "stress tests" to guard against crises like the one at the Fukushima plant. Some countries have raised the possibility of closing any of Europe's 143 reactors that fail them.

Andrej Stritar, head of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) which is helping to prepare the tests, said the tests would not ask whether Europe's nuclear power plants were safe.

"That is maybe how these stress tests are misunderstood ... The proper question is, how do we make them even safer? So they are safe today, because otherwise they wouldn't be licensed, they wouldn't be allowed to operate."

(Reporting by Sylvia Westall and Fredrik Dahl; Editing by Louise Ireland)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:26 AM
To: 'Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov'
Subject: Re: Runng late

Look forward to seeing clips. Haven't seen reuters yet.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>

To: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>; Brenner, Eliot

Sent: Tue Apr 05 02:21:54 2011

Subject: Runng late

Sorry am running late for 8:15 del mtg. Saw the reuters piece this morning with good headline, and good quotes from jaczko.

Sent from my BlackBerry.

Bu/1114

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:39 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Blogs

1 new result for **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

ANS Q&A on Radiation & Fukushima | ANS Nuclear Cafe

By ansnuclearcafe

U.S. citizens located within 50 miles of the plant site were initially advised by the United States **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** to leave the area for the time being. In an appearance before a U.S. Senate Subcommittee on March 30, NRC ...

ANS Nuclear Cafe - <http://ansnuclearcafe.org/>

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BU/1115

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 12:10 AM
To: Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan; Coggins, Angela
Cc: Pace, Patti
Subject: RE: Friday interview?

From: Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:42 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan; Coggins, Angela
Cc: Pace, Patti
Subject: Fw: Friday interview?

This is a yes, right?

Joshua C. Batkin
Chief of Staff
Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko
(301) 415-1820

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
To: Batkin, Joshua
Cc: Jaczko, Gregory
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:53:45 2011
Subject: Friday interview?

Hi Josh:

I'm the primary editorial writer at the Times dealing with nuclear issues. I believe we've actually talked in the past on some nuclear issue that was ripe for comment.

In the wake of the Japanese nuclear plant accident, it seems clear that I will need to follow the nuclear safety issue in this country and abroad closely for the foreseeable future. I'm wondering if it would be feasible for me to interview Mr. Jaczko and you or other appropriate staff members for, say, half an hour on this coming Friday, April 8th. The interview would be on background, would seek your views on the key issues to keep my eye on, and mostly just let you size me up for future reference. I'm hoping to establish enough mutual confidence that I can bounce questions off of Mr. Jaczko and you and get background replies as key issues arise. I've done that with mutually satisfactory results on health care reform issues, mostly because key officials recognize that I'm not looking for breaking news or direct quotes but rather for guidance on how to interpret information that is publicly available.

I'll be making a similar request of other commission members and their chiefs of staff.

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

Bu/1116

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - jaczko

News

2 new results for jaczko

With Nuclear Power, Overconfidence is Deadly

Treehugger

On Wednesday, Gregory **Jaczko**, the chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, testified before a Senate subcommittee about the nuclear crisis in Japan. He assured the committee of "our continuing confidence in the safety of the US commercial ...

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[Treehugger](#)

Feinstein Urges U.S. Review of Nuclear Waste Amid Japan Crisis

Bloomberg

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory **Jaczko** told lawmakers waste storage may be examined in the review ordered by the president. Spent-fuel pools are "very robust structures" that can safely store waste for 100 years, **Jaczko** told Feinstein, ...

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BU/117

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:28 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Medina, Veronika; Janbergs, Holly
Subject: FW: CNN Request

This is probably OBE, but I just saw this buried in my e-mails. I can call her tomorrow to tell her "no" but we'll put her name on the list (unless it is already there).

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
— Protecting People and the Environment
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: CNN Request

Just received a call from Marcella Salazar, with CNN. Looking for interview with the Chairman. Please call her at (b)(6). Thanks.

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

BU/1118

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of
EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 6:21 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Monday,
April 4, 2011:

In This E-Mail

House Democrats voice opposition to EPA restrictions

Feds call on industry to repair aging pipelines

Obama to talk energy at Indianapolis plant

US official decries exec bonus in Gulf oil spill

Tests performed on Gulf fail-safe device defended

No drilling deal with BP, Salazar says

Upper Big Branch Mine explosion response marked by confusion

Emails show rampant conflicts among BP managers before Macondo blowout

Low natural gas prices, recession slow wind energy

Tepco to release radioactive water into ocean

Libyan oil city of Brega at center of continued fighting

Conservative group's model bill adopted by state EPA foes

Transocean backtracks on claim about 2010 safety

Daybook: Upcoming events

House Democrats voice opposition to EPA restrictions

By Edward Felker

Bu/1119

A group of 155 House Democrats on Monday signaled its opposition to Republican attempts to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's air pollution agenda, a move intended to sway moderates and President Barack Obama as budget talks intensify.

In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, the Democratic lawmakers urged him to resist what they called an ongoing "attack" on the Clean Air Act. "We ask you to oppose efforts to undermine this landmark law," they said.

The letter, organized by Energy and Commerce ranking Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., follows the introduction last week of a resolution by 34 Senate Democrats in support of the EPA's use of the Clean Air Act to impose new pollution regulations.

The twin actions, coming in the heat of budget negotiations, indicated Republicans lack the votes needed to override a veto of legislation prohibiting EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions, said Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch.

"Both (Senate Majority Leader) Harry Reid and these Democrats are sending a strong message to the White House that they want the president to stand firm and not give in to any anti-environmental budget riders," he added.

A ban on EPA climate authority that was included in the Republicans' 2011 budget bill, and other controversial provisions, are the subject of backroom negotiations to head off a partial government shutdown this Friday.

Environmental groups and liberal lawmakers have been rallying to stop any legislation that handcuffs the agency's implementation of the Clean Air Act, which they consider a pillar of environmental and health law.

The House Democrats' letter defends the EPA's use of its Supreme Court-mandated climate authority to set higher auto mileage targets. "Indeed, EPA has already wisely used this authority to implement one national automobile standard to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions," they wrote.

The House was expected to pass its version of the EPA greenhouse gas prohibition bill by Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich. as soon as Tuesday. But the outlook was unclear for EPA budget provisions and for a companion Senate bill. Republicans have been trying to attach that legislation to a Senate small business bill.

Reid said Monday that talks continue on the small business bill and he might have more information for Democratic senators at their weekly caucus lunch on Tuesday.

On the budget bill, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said Obama had invited congressional leaders from both parties to the White House on Tuesday

for a face-to-face meeting, but gave no indication that a deal was imminent.

Feds call on industry to repair aging pipelines

By Michael Rubinkam

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Federal transportation officials demanded Monday that pipeline companies speed up efforts to repair and replace aging oil and gas lines, saying recent deadly explosions in Pennsylvania and California highlight the urgent need for safety improvements.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced plans to strengthen oversight of companies that operate a 2.5 million-mile network of pipelines that deliver oil and gas to the nation's homes and businesses. LaHood toured the ruins of a Feb. 9 pipeline explosion in Allentown that destroyed a block of row houses and killed five people, including an elderly couple and a 4-month-old boy.

"People shouldn't have to worry, when they flip a light switch in their kitchen, that it could cause an explosion in the front yard," LaHood said. "People should have absolute confidence they can turn on the heat, the stove or a computer without endangering their families and neighbors."

Although the number of pipeline-related accidents resulting in serious injury or death has been cut nearly in half over the past two decades, LaHood said, the Allentown blast and other recent catastrophic explosions showed that pipeline companies need to do more.

Last September, a 44-year-old gas transmission line ruptured in San Bruno, Calif., killing eight people, injuring dozens and leaving 55 homes uninhabitable. Investigators said the pipe had flawed welds. And in Philadelphia in January, a gas main explosion sent a 50-foot fireball into the sky, killing a utility worker, injuring six people and forcing dozens from their homes.

Gas companies are already legally required to check pipeline integrity in highly populated areas and make repairs where necessary, but LaHood has asked executives at major pipeline companies to make it a priority.

Some pipelines in Allentown are more than 120 years old. Reading-based UGI Utilities Corp., which operates 79 miles of cast-iron pipeline in Allentown and about 300 miles across its system, has said that it could take four decades at the current pace to replace those pipes.

But UGI Vice President Robert Beard told a state Senate panel last month that the explosion could accelerate the utility's efforts.

Antonio Arroyo, 43, who lost his home in the blast, said UGI needs to go faster.

"This place is a minefield until it gets replaced," said Arroyo, who appeared at

Monday's news conference with LaHood.

Michelle Hall, 40, whose husband's parents were killed in the explosion, said the empty lot where a row of homes once stood should be reason enough for utilities to act.

"That plot of land wasn't always vacant. There were eight houses, with families living in them, families who are now completely devastated," she said. "That vast empty space — that is why there should be pipeline regulation."

The Transportation Department also plans new regulations to strengthen reporting and inspection requirements and make information about pipelines and the safety records of operators easily accessible to the public.

The department also seeks legislation to enhance oversight of pipeline safety — including an increase in civil penalties for violations from a maximum of \$100,000 per day to \$250,000 per day and from \$1 million to \$2.5 million for a series of violations — and has asked for funding for 40 more inspectors.

Don Santa, the president and CEO of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, said his group's members were committed to pipeline safety and looking forward to working with the department.

"Last month, we formally adopted a set of five guiding principles for pipeline safety, including a goal of zero incidents — a perfect record of safety and reliability for the national pipeline system," he said in a statement. "These guiding principles stemmed from a recently formed INGAA board level pipeline safety task force, which is charged with looking at ways to improve the industry's safety performance and restore public confidence in the natural gas pipeline infrastructure."

Industry leaders, state officials and others will meet April 18 in Washington to discuss ways to improve the nation's pipeline infrastructure.

Obama to talk energy at Indianapolis plant

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama plans to visit an Indianapolis transmission plant that produces systems for hybrid vehicles as part of his push for reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

The White House said Obama will tour a plant operated by Allison Transmission in Indianapolis on Friday. Last week, the president outlined his goals of increasing domestic oil exploration and production, making cars and trucks more energy efficient and building vehicles that run on alternative fuels or electricity.

The company says that buses equipped with its hybrid equipment have saved an estimated 15 million gallons of fuel since 2003. Its transmissions are used in a wide range of vehicles, including trucks, buses, off-road and military vehicles.

Obama broke the GOP string of victories in Indiana in 2008, winning the state.

US official decries exec bonus in Gulf oil spill

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The company that gave executive bonuses for safety after its Gulf of Mexico rig exploded a year ago, killing 11 and causing the largest offshore spill in U.S. history, “just doesn’t get it,” the head of a U.S. presidential commission investigating the spill said Monday.

Transocean Ltd’s executive bonuses underscore the commission’s finding that lax standards caused the accident that dumped more than 200 million gallons of oil into the gulf, William Reilly said.

Reilly and his co-chair, former U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, joined U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar on Monday for talks with Mexican officials on uniform regulations for drilling in the gulf.

Transocean gave bonuses for the “best year in safety performance in our company’s history,” according to a regulatory filing last week.

“What I’ve seen from various investigative reports is that they were at least at some fault,” Salazar said in a news conference, adding that 2010 “was probably the greatest year of pain in terms of development of deep-water gas and oil in the world, especially in the Gulf of Mexico.”

The commission appointed by President Barack Obama has said the explosion was caused by a series of time- and money-saving decisions by Transocean, BP and oil services company Halliburton Inc.

Ihab Toma, Transocean’s executive vice president, said some of the wording in the 2010 proxy statement “may have been insensitive in light of the incident that claimed the lives of 11 exceptional men.”

“We deeply regret any pain that it may have caused,” Toma said in a statement.

Salazar said the U.S. team is in Mexico to share its findings from the spill as part of discussions with Mexican government officials and oil industry leaders to develop common standards and protocols for exploring and drilling in the Gulf.

“The Gulf of Mexico in terms of its natural state is one body of water,” Graham said. “What happens in one country will have an effect on others.”

Responding to a reporter's question, Graham said he hopes Cuba, which also plans to explore for oil in its territorial waters of the Gulf, would adhere to whatever standards are developed. The U.S. team noted that Cuba is working with Spanish oil company Repsol and Russia's Gazprom Neft.

"In Florida there is great concern about the prospect of drilling so close to our coast by a country that hasn't engaged in this previously," said Graham, who represented Florida in the Senate. "That's part of what we're talking about with Mexico, that a Gulf of Mexico agreement would be adhered to by any country. We're optimistic that it will occur."

Tests performed on Gulf fail-safe device defended

By Harry Weber

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — An investigator who examined the safety device that failed to prevent last year's BP oil spill said Monday his firm did not skip critical tests under pressure to meet a deadline to file a report on what caused the contraption not to work.

Neil Thompson, a Det Norske Veritas vice president, told a federal investigative panel that tests that were removed would not have affected the determination of why the blowout preventer failed.

DNV's March 23 report concluded the device failed because of faulty design and a bent piece of pipe.

"We don't believe that conclusion would change," Thompson said.

The report appears to shift some blame for the disaster away from the oil giant and toward those who built and maintained the 300-ton safety device. It was built by Cameron and maintained by Transocean.

At least one outside expert has said the findings cast serious doubt on the reliability of all other blowout preventers used by the drilling industry.

BP and the U.S. Chemical Safety Board argue more testing should have been done before conclusions were reached. Cameron argues backup data should have been given to the parties when the report was filed.

Documents emerged early in the probe showing that a part of the device had a hydraulic leak, which would have reduced its effectiveness. There were also concerns raised about batteries in the control pods used with the blowout preventer and a "deadman" trigger that is supposed to activate the device when power to the rig is lost.

Gary Kenney, the lead investigator assigned by DNV to handle the blowout preventer analysis, testified Monday that testing showed low battery function in

one of the control pods and inconsistent power function to operate a component of the other control pod. But he said those issues were dismissed as primary contributing factors to the blowout preventer failure.

Kenney acknowledged that not all of the functions of the blowout preventer stack were tested.

Under intense cross-examination from a Cameron attorney, Thompson acknowledged that a final DNV computer model of where the pipe was believed to have lodged inside the blowout preventer was not completely accurate. He also acknowledged he has no operational experience on a drilling rig and had never laid eyes on a blowout preventer before being asked to participate in testing the device used with BP's Macondo well.

Among other things, Thompson said DNV did not consider whether any damage to the side sealing packers on the blowout preventer may have contributed to the device's failure.

The blowout preventer report by the Norwegian firm DNV was not the final word on the Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 workers and led to more than 200 million gallons of oil spewing from a BP well a mile beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

Monday's testimony came during the seventh round of hearings before the joint U.S. Coast Guard-Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement investigative panel, which is looking into the causes of the April 20, 2010, rig explosion and oil spill off Louisiana. The panel expects to release some preliminary findings a few days before the anniversary of the disaster later this month.

Also Monday, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., urged the Chemical Safety Board and BOEMRE to examine whether the length of time Transocean's workers were on the rig at the time of the explosion contributed to the disaster.

They said documents they have been provided indicate that Transocean shifted from a 14-day-in-a-row rig worker schedule to a 21-day-in-a-row schedule in the months before the explosion. The members of Congress said they were told this was partially a cost-saving measure.

Neither of the federal agencies would comment. Transocean said in a statement that the 21-day schedule benefits employees and the company through continuity of operations, reduced crew travel and longer on-shore intervals that allow for more comprehensive training.

No drilling deal with BP, Salazar says

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar denied a report that the Interior Department was set to approve BP's plan to resume drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, CBS News reports.

[Read more](#)

Reuters reports that Salazar said the report was based on a "misconception" about the permitting process.

[Read more](#)

Upper Big Branch Mine explosion response marked by confusion

Massey Energy could not quickly determine who was underground or where they were when the Upper Big Branch Mine exploded a year ago, NPR reports.

[Read more](#)

Greenwire reports that a federal appellate court appeared lenient toward Massey Energy's argument that the government should have considered its request to conduct its own investigation.

[Read more](#)

Emails show rampant conflicts among BP managers before Macondo blowout

The BP team overseeing the Macondo well had numerous conflicts over management and operations before last year's accident, according to emails reviewed by the Houston Chronicle.

[Read more](#)

Low natural gas prices, recession slow wind energy

Wind power is facing tough times as the economic recession and low natural gas prices have reduced demand for new U.S. installations, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Tepco to release radioactive water into ocean

Tepco said it will release 11,000 tons of radioactive water into the ocean to make room for the capture of more highly-radioactive water from its stricken Fukushima nuclear station, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Libyan oil city of Brega at center of continued fighting

Rebels fought against Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi near the oil port city of Brega as Italy formally recognized the opposition and oil continued to hover at the highest prices since 2008, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Conservative group's model bill adopted by state EPA foes

Model legislation opposing greenhouse gas regulations, written by the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, has already been adopted in eight states and is being considered in 10 others, ClimateWire reports.

[Read more](#)

Transocean backtracks on claim about 2010 safety

Transocean says it regrets calling 2010 its best year in terms of safety performance in a recent securities filing, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 5, Washington: House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing on BLM, Forest Service energy and minerals programs 2012 budgets. BLM Dir. Abbey, Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management Dir. Ferguson to testify. 10:00 am, Longworth 1324.
- Apr. 5, Washington: House Subcommittee on Water and Power hearing, "Creating Abundant Water and Power Supplies and Job Growth by Restoring Common Sense to Federal Regulations." 2:00 pm, Longworth 1324.
- Apr. 5, Washington: The EPA holds a hearing on its proposal to delay greenhouse gas regulations on biomass power sources for three years. 2:30 pm, EPA, 1310 L St., N.W., Room 152-154.
- Apr. 5, Washington: House Rules Committee meets to consider amendments to H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act, in advance of floor debate. 3:00 pm, Capitol H-313.
- Apr. 5, Washington: SAIS forum, "Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami: Dimensions of the Disaster and Future Prospects." Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki to speak. 6:30 pm, 1740 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.

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www.energyguardian.net

You can e-mail us at energy@washingtonguardian.net



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From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 5:06 PM
To: Howell, Art; RidsOpaMail Resource
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: DRAFT SPO ASSESSMENT OF YOUR OFFICE BY REGION IV

Thank you for your support. We don't anticipate the need for a meeting.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
-- Protecting People and the Environment
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Quayle, Lisa **On Behalf Of** Howell, Art
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:35 PM
To: RidsOpaMail Resource
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: DRAFT SPO ASSESSMENT OF YOUR OFFICE BY REGION IV

Good Day Eliot and Beth! Attached, please find the draft RIV's Mid-Year Senior Performance Official Assessment of OPA. We thank you for your cooperation and support. We do not propose a meeting, but would certainly support one if you would find it helpful. All the best.

Art

APPENDIX B – Primary and Secondary Assessment of Offices

SECONDARY ASSESSMENT OF OPA by Region IV

Supporting Remarks:

- OPA assisted and advised the Regional Administrator and his staff on public affairs aspects of regional programs and activities and on specific public affairs related problems which have risen in the region. OPA provided outstanding assistance to the senior staff to help achieve the agency's strategic goal to ensure transparency in our regulatory processes.
- OPA responded to routine inquiries from members of the public and the news media on NRC and its responsibilities, programs and activities via public meetings, on the telephone and e-mail and prepared high quality public announcements. The activities by the Public Affairs Officers in response to an unprecedented level of media and public inquiries stemming from the recent events in Japan have been outstanding.
- OPA assisted the technical staff in preparing for public meetings by anticipating items of public interest and helping the staff develop responses.
- OPA worked with the technical staff in various public outreach efforts designed to increase confidence in the NRC as an effective and independent regulator. Examples included public appearances along with resident inspectors at a Seismic Workshop and multiple public meetings in the vicinity of Diablo Canyon and San Onofre.

Areas for Improvement:

- None.

Means and Frequency of Interoffice Communications:

- Frequent telephone conferences and communications both internally and with external parties.

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:19 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: interviews with commissioners

I've sent a separate email to each chief of staff and carbon copied their commissioners.

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:32 PM
To: Boffey, Philip
Subject: Re: interviews with commissioners

Keeps me clean.
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:31:34 2011
Subject: RE: interviews with commissioners

Why don't I just contact everyone's chief of staff, including Jaczso's?

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

BU/1121

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:55 PM
To: Boffey, Philip
Subject: Re: interviews with commissioners

Phil: I can only speak for jaczko and can probably set you up with him. Talking to othersan at least thru me, difficult. You can contact them directly. They will probably turn to me for guidance and I will vouch for you. Awkward situation for me. I am at presser in vienna right now. Suggest you look at individual member websites for chief of staff contact info.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Boffey, Philip <phboff@nytimes.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 14:34:12 2011
Subject: interviews with commissioners

Hi Eliot:

In the wake of the Japanese nuclear plant accident, it seems clear that I will need to follow the nuclear safety issue in this country and abroad for the foreseeable future. I'm wondering if it would be feasible for me to interview each of the five NRC commissioners (separately) with their appropriate staff members for, say, half an hour apiece this coming Friday. The interviews would be on background, would seek their views on the key issues to keep my eye on, and mostly just let them size me up and me size them up. I'm hoping to establish enough mutual confidence that I can bounce questions off of them and get background replies as key issues arise. I've done that with mutually satisfactory results on health care reform issues, mostly because key officials recognize that I'm not looking for breaking news or direct quotes but rather for guidance on how ti interpret information that is publicly available.

Philip M. Boffey
Editorial Writer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10018
Phone: (212) 556-4485
Fax: 212-556-3815
Email: phboff@nytimes.com

From: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: Press Briefing by JP and int'l officials on Japan, April 4, 2011

From: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
To: Vienna UNVIE Americans - No Internet Addresses
Sent: Mon Apr 04 22:03:47 2011
Subject: Press Briefing by JP and int'l officials on Japan, April 4, 2011

From: Wolfgang Bednarzek <vienna.usmission@gmail.com>
To: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; simon.morgan@afp.com <simon.morgan@afp.com>
Sent: Mon Apr 04 22:00:25 2011
Subject: Expert Briefing Japan, April 4, 2011

Press Briefing

IAEA Press Room

April 4, 2011

Koichiro Nakamura, NISA

Shinichi Kwarada, MEXT

Gregory Jaczko, NRC

Jukka Laaksonen, WENRA

Andrej Stritar, ENSREG

Denis Flory, IAEA

Start 20:43

Flory, I would like to explain, how the panel was chosen. The panel members were chosen along firsthand information and initial safety measures in Japan and US. US has the same sort of nuclear reactors as Japan. The EU was added in its character as laboratory for stress tests also with issues like harmonizing stress tests and harmonizing safety.

BU/1122

Nakamura, (1.50) thank you etc., during the session I explained the current situation at the Fukushima Daichi power station, specifically the question of the specific events covering unit 1 to 3, and the measures we have taken and also I explained the situation at the spent fuel pools from Unit 1 to 4. As far as environmental monitoring goes I explained what measurements we came up with. In the concluding remarks I mentioned that we would like to gather all possible expertise from home and abroad to overcome this serious accident. Also the Future we would like to analyze all the causes and specific measures taken and this information will be used to improve the safety measures. So during that whole process I would like to provide all information in a transparent manner.

During the second part of the session I explained that the immediate safety measures taken for the other nuclear power plants. So on 30 March the NISA notified the operators urging them to improve safety measures. Even in the wake of the Tsunami we made efforts to avoid loss of all AC power and avoid damage of all reactors and spent fuel pools. NISA urged the operators to take all safety measures.

Kawarada, (7.40), I explained about offsite monitoring activities. In the area within 20 to 40 km radius we have conducting very active monitoring activities and made all data public. As for the monitoring of the ocean we have done that 30 km off the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Plant. Also we have been conducting the aerial monitoring by aircraft. Besides the monitoring activities at the vicinity of the power plants we have been conducting throughout Japan using the monitoring posts placed throughout Japan and publishing the data.

Jaczko, we have tremendous sympathy for the people of Japan struggling with the effects of the disaster. NRC has dispatched a group of technical experts to communicate with JP colleagues and provide advice, part of larger team to help with a very difficult situation. Because of similarities of design and of possibilities of similar disasters in US we ask question. We believe US plants are safe, but we are a learning organization and we are looking into additional possible measures. Short term quick look review, 90 days, then longer review with more indepth info. The efforts to address the situation are really international. We try to provide good communications with each other, effective and efficient. The IAEA has an important role to play to facilitate this information sharing. I want to commend DG Amano for June Conference announcement and we are pleased to support this. Good regulatory systems can ensure plants operate safely.

Laaksonen (13.20) We just completed European review in response to Fukushima accident, separately in each country, started soon after the accident, second one peer review on European level, both processes are "stress tests". What do we mean by this, defined by targeted reassessment of safety of nuclear power plants in light of Fukushima incident. Will be based on existing engineering judgement how nuclear power plants will behave in challenging information. Aim not public confirmation, rather finding further safety improvement measures. Results will have provision for technical and organizational measures for each country. It's very plant specific, plants are different, hazards, too.

Stritat (16.00), I am the chair of the ENSEG, we were charged by the EU Council to prepare stress test. We have initiated very tight cooperation with WENRA. Two weeks ago technical work started, to be finished in a month or so, 12 May ENSEG regular meeting, stress test results expected, to be handed over to Commission. It is of course our main principle that we should improve. We must learn lessons and improve in all possible ways.(18.00)

Q&A

Jahn, AP, to Japanese members of the panel, in this meeting, did you provide new information?

Nakamura, I should say there was new information. As for the Tsunami TEPCO had certain assumptions how the Tsunami could hit. The assumption was 5,7 meters. Against that assumption the actual height, although not officially published, was 14 meters. This information was provided during this meeting.

Jahn, thank you, but I would like to rephrase the question, was there more info beyond that

Jaczko, (21.30) we have had reps in Tokyo in Industry and also in NISA, and the purpose is get information, a lot of information I saw today was consistent with this information. It takes time to get information. Good information assessment takes time and we need to invest time in this.

Laaksonen, we feel that we got a very accurate picture, there were no surprises from today. As an expert we can distinguish credible from non-credible information, and the info we have been receiving is sure good information.

Stritar, concurs, got from today a nicely organized presentation, did not receive more but better presented information

Tirone, Bloomberg, (ca. 23.00) clarification for Nakamura, question Jaczko. What do we know about neutron absorbers in spent fuel ponds. What was the date when boric acid was mixed with seawater, is TEPCO doing continuing monitoring of Neutron. Are NRC experts categorically eliminating re-criticality?

Nakamura, boric acid was injected, defers to TEPCO

TEPCO official, to the reactor core it has been injected, but not to the spent fuel pool. To the spent fuel we could steadily inject water, so far not detected neutrons.

Jaczko, we don't have any evidence of recriticality, our focus is helping the Japanese colleagues

Laakonen, you don't need to monitor neutron to see re-criticality, full spectrum of fission products will be seen by spectrometer.

Dahl, Reuters (26:50), dumping of low radioactive water, how much water is planned to be dumped, for how long.

Nakamura, (27.25), when I am here in Vienna I get the latest data from Japan, according to this data. This is the report from TEPCO. As you know there are stagnant water with high activity in Unit 2. In order for us to restore this water in a stable manner, we need to move it into the centralized waste storage. In that dumping place there is already the contaminated water of 10.000 tons. We need to further discharge this water which is low level radioactive. On top of that in Unit 5, 6 there are underground water accumulated with low radioactivity, but water in drain pit of unit 5 and 6 needs to be removed as well. This ground water 1500 ton plus another 10.000 tons, total to discharge 11500 tons. This fact has been recorded from TEPCO to NISA and we concluded that this measure is indispensable to avoid more serious risk.

Dahl, Reuters, how long will this take

Nakamura (32.00) I haven't heard how long it will take.

EFE, what does low level radiation mean for the general public, and where will this water end up, does this affect the Philippines or other countries in the Pacific. Are TEPCO open for help from France or Germany?

Nakamura (33.37), regarding the low level waste, we haven't a specific numbers for this. We are making the estimations what sort of impact to the environment when we discharge the water. If these low level of radioactive waste water is discharged we are making estimations of the impact, specifically assuming that

people eat fish and seaweed every day. We expect a 0.6 Millisievert per year threshold is taken into account. Based upon the regulatory law for reactors the threshold is 1 Millisievert per year, so we don't see a problem with the discharge. We have been contacting the Ocean monitoring, we continue to monitor and try to increase points and frequency of monitoring. We instructed TEPCO to strengthen monitoring activities.

Laaksonen, when we talk about such discharge, we have to understand, that seawater has a lot of radioactivity already. The total radioactivity will not be raised. You can detect certain radionuclide in Fish or other foodstuff, but it won't damage. We have experience from Baltic Sea after Chernobyl, we know what happened there and we don't see any radioactivity in the Fish or other sea products.

Nakamura (39.45) and to your second question about the overseas assistance. For example a country like the US, specifically NRC, we have received assistance and support and expertise provided from the very beginning of the accident. As Chairman Jaczko said, we have been accepting such support. Also, France, specifically AREVA provided us with radioactive gear and other equipment. From Germany we got I think concrete pumping vehicle which is used for injecting water into the spent fuel pool. AS you know, we have taken support and cooperation from IAEA and we have also been provided from many countries help, e.g. from governments and institutions and from private companies.

China Central Television, (43.10), what are the criteria for Japanese government how to choose assistance from other countries. The IAEA DG says frequently he can only suggest, how does Japan judge what advice to take. Also, please provide a conclusion, lessons learned one month after the accident.

Kawarada (44.50), as you pointed we were offered various suggestions and proposals from IAEA and other countries, and we are very open to accept, but we as Japanese government have to take the decision taking into account offers.

Nakamura (45.55), as you pointed out, in the wake of the earthquake and Tsunami, a certain period elapsed, the cause of the accident was more severe than our assumptions, during this period we have taken various measures in order to maintain cooling functions, specifically U1 to 3, and also for spent fuel pools U1 to 4. In the meantime we switched from the seawater injection to the freshwater injection and used fire extinguishing line that we switched over to power operated motors. We have made progress in this regard and we have now stable cooling functions, so these units are now under control. We should of course apply the cold shut down to all reactors and as far as the spent fuel pool goes we would like to put the SFP into long term stability. For that end we need to restore the cooling system for all reactors – therefore the need to restore all power supply. The restauration of power, the power is now running to the main power center, and in order to restore cooling system function we first have to establish the health of the equipment, including pumps and other equipment. Of course It will take a long time to proceed with the entire process, specifically the power is now in the central control room, however there is no power or lighting on the site. The workers have to work under high levels of radiation. And lots of debris is hindering work. On top of that we have experienced several times per day aftershocks. All this makes our work very difficult and why it has been taking a very long time. (53.02) We have to ensure the long time stability and SFP's. At the same time we have to seal to avoid radioactive material release.

Flory (54.50), we all know that this accident should not have happened, something had not done in the very beginning, but we can learn lessons from this. Everyday I see data which does not make sense, because the measurement systems probably have been changed during the accident. We start the process of learning today, in a more formal way on June 20. Again there will be many issues addressed – design, mitigation, emergency preparedness, safety standards. We do not have the answers today.

MacLaughlin, Platts, DG Amano mentioned he wanted to send an expert Mission to evaluate the situation. Has the JP government agreed to do this? Mr. Jaczko you said you believed US power plants are safe. Mr. Laakonen and Mr. Stritar, can you say the same about EU power plants?

Nakamura, (57.10), I understand the offer of a IAEA review mission. Having said that I am not aware of the details. Discussions within the Japanese government are underway. However I like to add the General Comment from myself. IAEA is such an advanced institution with high expertise and transparency. It is very important to have evaluation and assessment by the IAEA and/or the expert group organized by the IAEA.

Laakonen, I cannot speak on behalf of other regulators. I am confident Finland plants are safe.

Stritar, this is an important question, and this is maybe how the stress tests are misunderstood. The question is not are plants safe. They would not be licensed if they were not safe. The question is to make them even safer.

End: 21:45

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:02 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Photos

I just sent were from press conference after japanese "side event."

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

BU/1123

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:42 PM
To: Marshall, Michael
Subject: Re: If you can meet us

2 minutes.
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Marshall, Michael
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:34:15 2011
Subject: Re: If you can meet us

Waiting.

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Marshall, Michael
Sent: Mon Apr 04 15:29:50 2011
Subject: If you can meet us

At the end of the hall that delegation rooms are on -- toward the way out -- you will save a minute and GBJ can leave with you while I fend off press. Leave door open so I can get my stuff.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1124

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 3:10 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Can you do tnt?

On the run. About 50 journalists here and 9 cameras. Major wires, many japanese publications.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1125

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: IMG-20110404-00023.jpg
Attachments: IMG-20110404-00023.jpg

Chairman framed by tvcameras preparing for press conf monday nite at iaec/cns meeting on japan reactor situation.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

Bu/1126



From: Maisano, Frank <Frank.Maisano@bgllp.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:46 PM
To: Maisano, Frank
Subject: Apr 4 Energy Update: GHGs, Energy: Politics, Sport or Blood

Friends,

Today's update starts with the Sports Report because, really, that is all we are thinking about. Baseball is under way and it looks like the Orioles are going 162-0. Butler advanced to the NCAA Basketball finals for the second straight year making a "Hoosiers 2: This Time They Win" sequel possible. Yet, tomorrow, an even more unlikely scenario plays out after last night's upset at the NCAA Women's Final Four where the mighty UConn Women were bounced out by Notre Dame. They play Texas A&M who slew Baylor and Stanford back-to-back. And don't forget the Frozen Four Thursday and Saturday. Finally, it is Master's Week so no calls or e-mails (they slow down the Internet connections) on Thursday and Friday. And don't look now, but we are only a week or so away from chasing the most coveted trophy in sports: Lord Stanley's Cup. Sure it is nice to have the Vince Lombardi trophy, NBA's Larry O'Brien or even the Commissioner's trophy in Baseball, but nothing quite holds up to "The Cup." We'll discuss in detail next week, but to get you excited for the real hockey season, I have added a backgrounder on the history of "The Cup" below.

With the Sports out of the way first, on to the big news. The politics on EPA regulating GHGs is getting weirder and weirder as last week the Senate again postponed votes, amid negotiation and political back and forth. Again, they say there'll be votes this week, but as I said last week, I will only believe it is happening when the vote clock begins and the clerk calls the roll. On the other hand, the House is expected to start voting as early as tomorrow on legislation blocking EPA's carbon rules. The bill will again easily pass, just as it did in committee, leaving the only interesting questions remaining exactly how many Democrats will support the effort and what kind of amendments will the Democrats try to tack on. Let me just add if they try the same ridiculous strategy of voting on "science-type" amendments, it will be a waste of a good political battle.

The real EPA/GHG question has started to turn to the budget and whether EPA restrictions will land there. With reports last week about that possibility, there was significant backtracking as well as lots of "hair on fire" comments and letters from the environmental community, assuring us that it is a definite possibility – even if it really wasn't before. Politically though, many Democrats would love to undercut EPA on GHGs rather than vote against some of their other favorite pet programs.

Also on the Hill this week, the House Science Committee is holding a hearing Wednesday to discuss clean up and containment technologies and their improvements since last year's Macondo spill. Helix CEO Owen Kratz, who has lead efforts in this area will appear. The company spearheads an industry cooperative known as the Helix Well Containment Group, a not-for-profit oil spill response organization serving 23 oil and gas exploration and production companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Four deepwater drilling permits recently granted by the Department of the Interior were issued based upon the containment capabilities offered under the cooperative's Helix Fast Response System.

Also Wednesday and following on last week's energy events aimed at gasoline and clean vehicles, the President will head to suburban Philadelphia to discuss his long-term plan to protect consumers against rising oil prices and decrease oil imports as well as key components of his broader energy plan. He will visit Gamesa Technology Corporation where he will hold a town hall discussion with workers about building a 21st century clean energy economy.

Finally, mark your calendars for April 14th when I will host the first in a series of the National Press Club Newsmakers on the future of nuclear power and Japanese crisis. We're coming out the box strong with an All-Star panel that features RFF President and Blue Ribbon Commission member Phil Sharp, financial energy analyst Kevin Book and Greenpeace nuclear expert Jim Riccio.

As usual, we are fully prepared to address each of these issues with fabulous quotes, in-depth research and substantive background. Please call with questions.

Best,

Frank Maisano

BU/1127

IN THE NEWS

Stanley Cup Playoffs Start April 13 – As you may know, the Stanley Cup playoff start on April 13th, so in preparation, I thought I would forward a little backgrounder on the oldest championship trophy in North America: Lord Stanley's Cup. It was initially bought by Governor General Of Canada Lord Stanley of Preston to be presented to the amateur hockey champion of Canada. It was first presented in 1893. The National Hockey Association purchased the trophy in 1910. Unlike the trophies awarded in the major professional sports, a new Stanley Cup is not made each year; Cup winners keep it until a new champion is crowned. It is unusual among trophies, in that it has the names of all of the winning players, coaches, management, and club staff engraved on its chalice. Currently, in order to have one's name inscribed on the Cup, a player must have played at least 40 games for the championship team during the regular season (provided the player remains with the team when they win the Cup) or at least played in one game of the Final. However, the NHL will also consider other reasons on a case-by-case basis. For example, in 1998, the Detroit Red Wings received special permission from the NHL to engrave Vladimir Konstantinov's name, on the Cup after Detroit defended their title (by thrashing the Capitals!!!). Konstantinov's career ended after a limo accident in June of 1997 following Detroit's first Stanley Cup victory since the late 1950s. Jean Béliveau's name appears the most of any individual, ten times as a player and seven times as management for a total of seventeen times. Henri Richard, with his name engraved eleven times, played on more teams that have won the Stanley Cup than any other player. Currently, the Cup stands at 35¼ inches tall and weighs 34½ lbs. And if you get to hoist it, it apparently is a light as a feather I'm told.

AWC Files First Ever BOEM Application – The Atlantic Wind Connection (AWC) filed the first-ever unsolicited right-of-way application with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the use of certain areas of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to construct an offshore transmission system. "The Mid-Atlantic region's offshore waters hold vast potential for wind energy production. AWC offers a superhighway allowing large-scale development of this strategically important clean domestic energy resource efficiently, economically and with the least environmental impact. AWC supports federal and state economic development, environmental and renewable energy policy objectives, including the renewable energy standards of states in the region, and it would enhance the competitive regional electric market by increasing supply options and reducing congestion on existing facilities. The application builds on the strong momentum created by the identification of four offshore wind energy development zones announced last month by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Energy Secretary Steven Chu. The project will be built in several phases designed to network those development zones and complement the progression of the Mid-Atlantic offshore wind industry while maximizing grid reliability and the benefits from economic dispatch of generation. AWC is the first offshore backbone electricity transmission system proposed in the United States. The project configuration outlined in today's application will enable up to 7,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy generation capacity to be cost-effectively integrated into the regional power grid operated by PJM Interconnection, increasing system reliability and reducing congestion in the heavily congested corridor between Virginia and the metropolitan New Jersey/New York City area. This cutting-edge high-voltage direct-current subsea backbone transmission system would be constructed off the coasts of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

AGs Ask for GHG Delay – Attorneys General from 19 states plus the territory of Guam have asked EPA to delay for at least three years plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources in a letter last week. "We are writing to ask the EPA to defer its program of greenhouse gas regulations so that Congress can be given an opportunity to evaluate both the need and timing of such regulations," the attorneys general wrote in a March 29 letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. "Such deferral is especially important to us given the disruption that the rapid implementation of the EPA program is causing to the state administrative agencies that we advise and the businesses those agencies have been tasked with regulating. A deferral would allow the current Congress a full opportunity to review the EPA's Endangerment Finding and to determine the best course for our nation to take, the AGs said. They also added that the Clean Air Act is not an effective or efficient vehicle to deal with an issue like the worldwide emissions of GHGs. The attorneys general also said that a deferral would "relieve the pressure on state agencies scrambling to implement new regulatory requirements" in order to avoid potential repercussions from EPA, which has said that it would impose construction bans if the new regulations are not met. The AGs added that there can be "no doubt that the immediate consequences will be to make economic recovery more difficult," adding that a delay would allow time for a study of the long term impact of GHG regulations on jobs and the economy. The letter was signed by attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming.

EIA Report Shows Emissions Decline Due to Recession – The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported total U.S. anthropogenic (human-caused) greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 were 5.8% below the 2008 total in large part due

to the impacts of the economic recession. The decline in total emissions was the largest since emissions have been tracked over the 1990-2009 time frame. The large decline in emissions in 2009 was driven by the economic downturn, combined with an ongoing trend toward a less energy-intensive economy and a decrease in the carbon-intensity of the energy supply, according to EIA Administrator Richard Newell. Among the factors that influenced the emissions decrease was a decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 2.6%. Once again, our friends in the environmental community are proven right: the best emissions reduction program is to tank the economy. Of course, nobody else actually likes that approach.

UK Study Values Offshore Wind at \$273 Billion by 2050 – New economic analysis released by the Carbon Trust says that global offshore wind is set to grow by up to 10% per year, which is estimated to be worth up to \$273 billion a year by 2050. The new analysis also concludes the sector could be employing up to 230,000 people in the UK by 2050. The research examined the potential of offshore wind to drive green growth in the UK, based on global deployment levels of up to 1150GW by 2050. It looked in detail at jobs and revenues by industry sector, including turbines, foundations, collection & transmission, installation and the operation and maintenance of offshore windfarms. It found that offshore wind could represent a gross contribution to UK GDP generated by business of up to \$16 billion a year, 160.4 billion cumulatively between 2010 and 2050. By 2050, the greatest contribution for the UK will be created by the operation and maintenance of offshore wind farms, followed by turbine manufacture and installation. The new data also concludes that offshore wind could create up to 230,000 jobs in the UK by 2050. Exports from the UK offers significant growth potential, generating up to 80% of total jobs out to 2050.

THE SCHEDULE THIS WEEK:

Spill Hearing Continue in NOLA – A joint panel from the U.S. Coast Guard and Interior Department that is investigating the Deepwater Horizon accident will hold its seventh round of hearings next week in New Orleans. The hearings, run from Monday through Friday at the Holiday Inn Metairie New Orleans Airport in Metairie and will focus on the blowout preventer from the rig, particularly the findings of the report conducted by Det Norske Veritas and released last week.

Bloomberg Summit Focused on Clean Energy, Carbon – In its fourth year, the Bloomberg New Energy Finance Summit will be held on today through Thursday in New York at the Pierre Hotel and will focus on clean energy and carbon markets. Hosted for the first time in New York, the Summit will bring together around 400 industry leaders from across the world. The 2011 Summit now includes a supplementary Roundtable Day on Energy Access and Climate Finance in Association with UN-Energy. Speakers will include NYC Mayor Bloomberg, World Bank President Robert Zoellick, Climate academic and author Bjorn Lomborg, UK Minister for Climate Greg Barker, NREL Director Dan Arvizu, POET's Jeff Broin, former FERC Chair Joe Kelliher of NextEra Energy, DOE's Jonathan Silver and our friend Rick Needham, head of Green Business Operations for Google, among others

Murkowski, FERC Officials Address Hydro Conference – The National Hydropower Association will hold its annual conference today through Wednesday at the Capital Hilton in Washington D.C. More than 500 hydro professionals will attend the 2011 National Hydropower Association Annual Conference, focusing on hydro energy as America's foundation for a renewable energy future. The event will bring together industry leaders, state and federal regulatory officials and key legislative staff to discuss technology, policy and future development options for the hydropower sector. Special keynote guest speakers include Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), FERC Commissioner John R. Norris and J. Mark Robinson, former director of FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

Energy Panel to Look at China, Energy – The House Energy and Commerce's Energy and Power panel will hold a hearing today at 3:00 p.m. to focus on China's energy portfolio and the implications for the jobs and energy prices in the United States. Witnesses include Steven Kopits of Douglas-Westwood, Peabody's Fred Palmer, WRI's Deborah Seligsohn and Mary Hutzler at the Institute for Energy Research.

Forum to Focus on State Energy Programs – The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) hosts a briefing today at 3:30 p.m. in 2212 Rayburn on how state governments are implementing energy programs and the economic development activities associated with those programs. State officials and representatives will discuss the U.S. State Energy Program (SEP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and how these programs create jobs, reduce energy bills, and enhance energy security. This briefing will provide data and information about the energy-related economic development being promoted by the nation's 56 State and Territory Energy Offices and public and private sector partners. Speakers for this event include Maryland's Malcolm Woolf, Ginger Willson of the Nebraska State Energy Office, Robert Scott of the National Association for State Community Services Programs and David Terry, Executive Director of the National Association of State Energy Officials.

Issa to Headline Forum – The American Council of Capital Formation (ACCF) will hold a Capital Formation Forum breakfast tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. in the Capitol Hill Club featuring Representative Darrell Issa, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As Chairman, Issa directs the Committee's primary responsibility to exercise effective oversight over the federal government and proactively investigate and expose waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee provides oversight of virtually everything government does - from national security to homeland security grants, from federal workforce policies to regulatory reform and reorganization authority, from information technology procurements at individual agencies to government-wide data security standards.

House Approps to Look at Ag Enviro Programs – The House Approps panel on agriculture spending panel meets tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. to discuss USDA's budget request for natural resources and environmental programs.

House Resources Looks at BLM Policies, Water, Marks Up Hastings Legislation – The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee holds a 10:00 a.m. oversight hearing on the impact of Obama's budget proposal for BLM and the U.S. Forest Service's Energy and Minerals Program on private sector job creation and domestic energy production. Witnesses include BLM Director Bob Abbey, USDA Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management Director Tony Ferguson, Rio Blanco County Commissioner Shawn Bolton, Western Energy Alliance President James Schroeder, Northwest Mining Association executive Laura Skaer and Whit Fosburgh of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Also, tomorrow at two, the Committee's Water subcommittee holds at 2:00 p.m. for a hearing on creating abundant water and power supplies and job growth by restoring common sense to Federal regulations. Then on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., the Energy panel will return to legislation that was introduced last week by Chairman Doc Hastings aimed at boosting domestic oil and gas production.

Tesla Head to Speak to Stimson Event – The Stimson Center will hold its Chairman's Forum tomorrow at Noon featuring Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla Motors. The Stimson Chairman's Forum is a strategic conversation, featuring respected opinion leaders in the foreign and security policy arena. Lincoln Bloomfield, Jr., Stimson's Chairman of the Board, holds these informal discussions about eight times a year to address the most relevant global issues we face today. Past guests include Senator Lindsey Graham, Daniel Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy, Rep. Howard Berman, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Richard L. Armitage, former Deputy Secretary of State, and General Michael V. Hayden, former director of the CIA.

Forum to Address China, Renewables – The ChinaFAQs project of the World Resources Institute (WRI) will hold a briefing tomorrow in SVC 203/202 Capitol Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m. to look at China's increasing role in advancing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate policies. China is a leader in the deployment of clean energy technologies, and the world's largest manufacturer of wind turbines and solar panels. The United States and China cooperate on a number of clean energy initiatives, producing benefits for both countries. However, China has emerged as a major competitor with the United States and other countries in clean energy technology on a global scale. Moreover, some commentators in each country see the other country as a roadblock to an international climate agreement, and China and the United States emit the most greenhouse gases in the world. Speakers will highlight key aspects of China's approach to clean energy and climate policy, how it fits into the global landscape, and the challenges and opportunities for U.S. efforts to develop clean energy and tackle climate change. Speakers for this event include Mark Levine of the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Joanna Lewis of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, WRI's Deborah Seligsohn, Chinese Embassy First Secretary Sun Guoshun and Kathy Weiss of First Solar.

Heritage Forum to Look at Oil's Political Risks – The Heritage Foundation will host a forum tomorrow at Noon on oil issues and potential price spikes. Political risks, such as social upheavals in the Persian Gulf, terrorism, and future wars have the potential to significantly affect the global supply of oil and drive prices up. Ongoing events in the Middle East; rising demand for oil in developing countries, especially India and China; commodity speculation in oil; and potential terrorist attacks on key transportation nodes, refineries, and oil fields have a major economic impact on the oil market. However, the global oil market can adjust to supply disruptions. Reliance on long-term market forces and coordinated security activities with allies and major oil producers and consumers can restore confidence in energy markets faster than a response that relies solely on government intervention. The lack of U.S. leadership in case of an oil crisis, however, would lead to further threats to the global energy production and transportation system and to negative economic outcomes. The United States must develop pro-active, multi-layered preventive and responsive strategies to deal with political threats to the security of oil supply. A panel of experts discusses strategic threats to oil supply and the policy options available to the United States and other oil consuming and producing states. They will also examine lessons learned from a recent Heritage Foundation energy crisis simulation exercise. They include Bruce Everett of Tufts University and Heritage experts David Kreutzer and Derek Scissors.

Forest Service Sets Public Hearings on Forest Planning Rule – The US Forest Service (USFS) holds its final public meetings on its proposed re-write of the Forest Planning Rule with a meeting on Wednesday in Delta, CO at 4:00 p.m. at the GMUG Forest Supervisor's Office. USFS says purpose for the forums includes increasing public understanding

about the draft rule and explaining how input gathered from the public during the scoping process is incorporated into the design of the rule.

RFF Seminar to Focus on Deepwater Drilling – Our friends at Resources for the Future (RFF) will hold their April "First Wednesday Seminar" seminar on Wednesday at 12:45 p.m. looking at deepwater drilling recommendations for a safer future. In August 2010, the RFF Center for Energy Economics and Policy responded to a request from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling to conduct research to inform the commission's work. As a result, RFF researchers identified key recommendations to improve the safety of future operations and shape U.S. regulatory practices as the benchmark for deepwater oil drilling. This panel will explore some of the key recommendations resulting from RFF's research on the risks of deepwater drilling. How can incentives be strengthened for industry to invest more in safety culture? How can policymakers adapt the regulatory environment to the risks of deepwater drilling? How can industry and government prepare for the risk of a future catastrophic spill? Panelists will include Georgetown Law prof Richard Lazarus, who served as Executive Director of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling; Mark Cohen of RFF and former Interior official Lynn Scarlett, a visiting scholar at RFF.

House Science to Look at Spill Technology Improvements – Speaking of drilling, the House Science Committee is holding a hearing Wednesday to discuss clean up and containment technologies and their improvements since last year's Macondo spill. Helix CEO Owen Kratz, who has lead efforts in this area will appear. The company spearheads an industry cooperative known as the Helix Well Containment Group, a not-for-profit oil spill response organization serving 23 oil and gas exploration and production companies in the Gulf of Mexico. Four deepwater drilling permits recently granted by the Department of the Interior were issued based upon the containment capabilities offered under the cooperative's Helix Fast Response System. The system incorporates lessons learned while leading the Macondo Incident Control and Spill Containment effort, in which four Helix-owned vessels played instrumental roles.

House Energy Focuses on Japan Nuke Crisis – Following last week's Senate Energy briefing, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's oversight panel holds a hearing Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. on the U.S. government's response to the Fukushima nuclear crisis in Japan.

McCarthy to Testify at House Oversight on GHGs – The House Oversight Committee's regulatory affairs panel will hold a hearing on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the impact of Greenhouse Gas Regulations on businesses. EPA's Gina McCarthy is on the second panel.

BPC Forum to Look at NatGas Markets – The Bipartisan Policy Center will hold a forum and a policy discussion on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in 2218 Rayburn featuring a new report from its Task Force on Ensuring Stable Natural Gas Markets. Opening statements from will be made by House Natural Gas Caucus Co-Chairs Dan Boren (D-OK) and Tim Murphy (R-PA). There will also be a panel discussion featuring American Clean Skies Foundation's Greg Staple and Norm Szydlowski of SemGroup Corporation. The panel will be moderated by former Senate Leader Trent Lott, now a Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center. The Task Force, a diverse group of producers, consumers and other experts, was jointly convened by the Bipartisan Policy Center and the American Clean Skies Foundation in March 2010 to examine historic causes of instability in natural gas markets and to explore potential solutions. The Task Force report finds that the growth of shale gas production can reduce the susceptibility of natural gas markets to price instability and provide an opportunity to expand the efficient use of natural gas in the United States.

AEI to Look at Rare-Earths Challenge – The American Enterprise Institute will hold an afternoon forum on Wednesday starting at 1:00 p.m. that will look at the discussion of the rare earths and the policy ramifications of their scarcity, geographic distribution, environmental impacts, and near-monopolistic market. A somewhat obscure group of elements--the rare-earth elements--have suddenly become a political issue. Critical to the manufacture of high-tech devices such as smartphones, hybrid vehicle motors, wind turbines, solar cells, weapon systems, oil and chemical refining, and more, the rare-earth elements are increasingly in short supply and more expensive as these technologies proliferate. These elements are mainly produced and refined in China, which has recently warned of forthcoming export reductions due to increased domestic demand and restraints on production attributed to environmental concerns. In response to a perceived "rare-earth crisis," some analysts have called for restoring US domestic production of the rare earths, and for challenging China in the World Trade Organization. Others have suggested stockpiling and recycling programs. Our friends Ken Green will be master of ceremonies and two panels will focus on physical elements of the rare-earth situation (featuring Cindy Hurst of the Foreign Military Studies Office, Jack Lifton of Technology Metals Research and Belva Martin of GAO) and the public policy dimension (featuring our friend Andy Davis at MolyCorp, MIT's Robert Jaffe, Lisa Margonelli of the New America Foundation and Francis Slakey of the American Physical Society).

Forum to Look at Hydro Power – The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) will hold a forum on hydropower Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in 2322 Rayburn. The U.S. hydropower industry provides about 7% of our electricity and

employs 200,000-300,000 people in project development and deployment, manufacturing, operations and maintenance. Hydroelectric pumped storage facilities also provide reliable and cost-effective energy storage, helping stabilize the grid by balancing electricity supply and demand. This briefing will examine the full spectrum of water power technologies - including incremental hydropower, ocean, tidal, in-stream hydrokinetic, and pumped storage - as well as geographic areas for potential growth in hydropower capacity, the job growth and economic benefits of hydropower development, and federal policy options to help the industry grow while protecting important environmental values. Case studies will be presented by Kleinschmidt Associates, an engineering firm supporting a conventional hydro facility expansion on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania; Eagle Crest Energy, a developer of a closed-loop pumped storage project in Southern California; and York, Pennsylvania-based Voith Hydro, a turbine supplier for new hydro projects on existing dams on the Ohio River and others. Speakers for this event include Linda Church Ciocci of the National Hydropower Association, Tim Oakes of Kleinschmidt Associates, Doug Divine of Eagle Crest Energy, Kevin Frank of Voith and NHA's Jeffrey Leahey.

Heritage Forum to Look at Enviro Regs – The Heritage Foundation will hold event and release a report Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. on the environmental regulatory stranglehold on the economy and the responsible development of America's resources. The inability of America to develop its vast natural resources due to the manipulation of environmental laws, which have helped clean up America, are restraining global competitiveness and driving the United States toward becoming a Second World Country. John Shively, former Alaska State Commissioner of Natural Resources under Governor Tony Knowles (D), advocates for common sense and the need for regulatory balance. The instability of the current regulatory process impacts the nation's global investment climate ultimately resulting in job loss. Shively takes a forthright look at how abuse of the legal system and laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act are being manipulated beyond recognition in order to halt development of domestic energy supplies and rich mineral resources across the country, especially in Alaska. Shively also highlights the devastating costs the current regulatory stranglehold on resource development will have on economic development and the standard of living for people at all income levels in the United States.

NAF Panel to Look at Energy, Transportation – The New America Foundation will hold a panel on Thursday at 8:30 a.m. looking at energy policy. Currently, there is little bipartisan cooperation on controlling greenhouse gases, energy policy, or funding the 2011 transportation bill. Everyone wants to change something about America's energy policy, but it's been largely static for 30 years. Maybe policy makers need to change the way we think. Can we enhance Transit Oriented Development with Transit Oriented Employment that offers workers more transportation choices? Can we reduce our dependence on oil by revitalizing rural areas? Could we expand the definition of a "green job" to mean one that doesn't require a car and \$4 gas to get to work? Could we fund our nearly bankrupt transportation infrastructure by paying down the deficit at the same time? The New America Foundation and a panel of experts will discuss the nation's chewiest infrastructure and energy security problems. Participants include Jed Kolko of the Public Policy Institute of California, NRDC's Deron Lovaas and Shin-Pei Tsay of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Senate Energy to Look at Biofuels, Legislation – The Senate Energy and Natural Resources panel meets on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. to discuss DOE's biofuel programs, biofuel infrastructure issues and S.187, the "Biofuels Market Expansion Act of 2011."

Energy Committee Staffer to Speak at USEA Meeting – The United State Energy Association will hold its annual membership meeting and public policy forum at the National Press Club on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. Highlights of the forum will include, remarks from Jack Fletcher, president of Bechtel Oil, Gas and Chemicals, the presentation of the 2011 United State Energy award and remarks from Robert Simon, staff director of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

House Energy Panel to Look at New EPA Bill – The House Energy Committee's Energy and Power panel will hold a hearing Thursday at 1:00 p.m. on new legislation from Utah Democrat Jim Matheson and Oklahoma Republican John Sullivan that would direct EPA to provide more information about the cumulative economic impacts of various regulations and require them to harmonize pending rules to give the industry increased certainty. The name of the bill: Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act of 2011 or the TRAIN Act. The question is whether they aim to "train" EPA or industry.

Forum to Look at Retail Energy Market – The energy consulting firm KEMA will hold its 22nd Executive Forum on Thursday and Friday at the JW Marriott in San Antonio, Texas to discuss the retail energy industry. As the leading event in the US retail energy industry, KEMA's Executive Forum will gather senior executives, regulators, energy buyers, investors and other stakeholders from across North America to discuss the key business and policy issues facing retail energy markets.

Budget Experts Look at Economic Impacts, Regulations – Resources for the Future (RFF) will hold special one-day conference on Thursday looking at greater use of economic analysis to improve regulatory policy. The event, sponsored by RFF and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, will take a closer look at the significant effects of regulations on the economy and welfare, as well as on entrepreneurship and economic growth. But federal regulatory agencies differ not only in their policies and practices, but also in their use of economic analysis in rulemaking. Speakers at this conference will explore how greater use of economic analysis may improve regulatory decisionmaking and public accountability, while also promoting economic growth and entrepreneurship. The keynote speaker is former Director of OMB and former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Alice Rivlin, now a Senior Fellow of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. Other featured speakers include former Administrator of the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs during the Clinton Administration Sally Katzen and Wendy Gramm, former Administrator of the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and former Chair of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

Forum to Focus on Transmission – The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems) will hold the eighth in a series of briefings about regulatory and policy issues affecting the nation's electric power system on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in 2325 Rayburn. Investment in electric transmission infrastructure is among the nation's highest energy priorities because a strong grid facilitates development of alternative generation resources, promotes a liquid wholesale power market with minimal congestion and market power, improves reliability and energy security, and advances energy independence overall. The nation is likely to invest more than \$300 billion in electric transmission during the next 20 years. By delving into the operation and regulation of the grid and the interstate flows of electricity it supports, the briefing is designed to provide a foundation for discussions about cost responsibility, land use issues, transmission planning, integration of variable renewable energy resources, and other issues that are becoming more important to the future of the power industry. The panel will describe the 21st century grid and how it is managed and regulated from the perspective of federal regulators, transmission providers, state officials, and regional transmission organizations. Speakers for this event include Mary Cain, Technical Advisor to FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur; Jay Caspary, Director of Transmission Development of the Southwest Power Pool; Wayne Galli of Clean Line Energy; Rich Halvey of the Western Governors Association and former FERC Chair Jim Hoecker.

EPA's Anastas To Highlight GWU Health Forum – The George Washington University, the University Seminar Series, the GW Institute for Sustainability and the Children's National Medical Center will host a talk by Dr. Paul Anastas, Assistant Administrator at EPA's Office of Research and Development on taking environmental and human health protection to the next level. GWU President Dr. Steven Knapp will offer opening remarks. The event will be at Noon on GW's Duques Hall Room 651. It will also feature a panel discussion with SPHHS Dean Dr. Lynn Goldman, GW School of Business professor and Director of the Institute for Corporate Responsibility Environmental Sustainability Program Mark Starik and John I. Carruthers, who directs GWU's Sustainable Urban Planning Program in the College of Professional Studies

Frozen Four Semifinals Kick Off – The second best tournament in hockey starts its semifinal round in St. Paul Thursday with Minnesota-Duluth ("Dalute" for those of you that know) taking on the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame at 5:00 p.m. In the nightcap, Michigan plays #1-ranked North Dakota at 8:30 p.m. Both games go on EPSN2, with the finals on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Wind Power, Finance Workshop Set for NY – AWEA will host its annual Wind Power Finance and Investment workshop on Thursday and Friday in New York. Wind and financial markets in the U.S. are dynamic and this workshop brings together the major players in wind energy finance to offer insights into the current state of the markets. Influencers and financial market leaders will discuss upcoming trends that will impact the industry, key government policies that are major issues, and discuss aspects of the wind finance business that differentiate leaders from followers. The panels will look at how key regulatory uncertainties have been addressed, the state of debt and equity capital markets, offshore wind financing issues, the U.S. power market outlook and much more. Speakers include former FERC Chair Pat Wood and Randy Mann of Edison Mission Energy. At the event, AWEA will also its 2010 U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report featuring comments by our friend Elizabeth Salerno, Chief Economist and Director of Industry Data & Analysis for AWEA.

EU Commissioner to Keynote Forum on Climate, Security – The Carnegie Institute will hold a forum on Friday starting at 9:00 a.m. where EU Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard will present a keynote address on the need to address climate and energy security threats and embracing clean technologies in support of the transition to a low-carbon economy. Climate change presents common threats to the security, economy, and environment of the European Union and United States. At the same time, the transition to a low-carbon economy has the potential to provide a major boost in innovation, investment, and enhanced competitiveness. While facing similar challenges, the EU and United States have taken significantly different approaches to capping greenhouse gas emissions. A panel discussion will follow Commissioner Hedegaard's address featuring Jonathan Elkind of the U.S. Department of Energy, Sherri Goodman of the Center for Naval Analysis, and Nigel Purvis of Climate Advisers.

JHU Forum to Look at Nuclear Fuel – The Johns Hopkins University's Energy, Resources and Environment Program will host a forum on Friday at 1:00 p.m. in Room 500 of the Bernstein-Offit Building looking at charting a course for America's nuclear fuel cycle. Sekazi Mtingwa, senior lecturer of physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and senior physicist consultant to Brookhaven National Laboratory, will discuss this topic.

Scottish Government to Host Symposium on Low Carbon Economy – The Scottish Government will host a symposium on Friday afternoon at The British Embassy (3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW) focused on their efforts to develop a low carbon economy. The half-day symposium, hosted by Scotland's Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Jim Mather MSP, is designed to bring together leading US and Scottish policy-makers, innovators and business people, to explore common approaches to developing energy policies, technologies, regulation and financial instruments that support the development of a low carbon economy. With around a quarter of Europe's tidal and offshore wind energy resource and a high concentration cutting-edge research and development capacity, Scotland is at the forefront of the international drive towards a low carbon economy. And remember, if it's not Scottish, it's CRAPPPPP!!!!

Yale Conference to Feature Wellinghoff – The Yale Climate & Energy Institute will hold its Annual Conference for 2011 in New Haven on Friday and Saturday in New Haven focusing on technological innovation for an energy-secure future. Speakers include FERC Chair Jon Wellinghoff, former CIA Director James Woolsey and former IPCC Chair Dr. Rajendar Pachauri, who now directs Yale's CEI. Other speakers include DOE's Arun Majumdar, who directs ARPA-E and former DOE official Ernest Moniz, who now heads MIT's Energy Initiative.

THE WEEKS AHEAD:

FERC's Norris, Marubeni Exec Headline Platts Conference – Platts will hold its 26th annual Global Power Markets Conference on April 11 and 12th at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. It is the seminal gathering place for power industry leaders that explores the issues crucial to the development of electric power markets worldwide. Among the speakers this year will be FERC Commissioner John Norris, CFTC Commissioner Bart Chilton, EPSA President John Shelk and our friend Richard Straebel of Marubeni Power, an AWC partner.

Energy Transformation Symposium Set – The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and the Consortium for Energy Efficiency, with support from the US EPA/DOE ENERGY STAR Programs, are hosting the 15th annual National Symposium on Market Transformation "Transitions and Transformation" at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel on April 11th and 12th. For over a decade, the National Symposium on Market Transformation has brought together policy makers, program planners, implementers and evaluators, as well as manufacturers and trade allies to discuss the latest progress in the field of market transformation. Since the inaugural workshop in 1997, we've witnessed considerable growth and change within the field of market transformation in response to shifts in the economic, political, and regulatory climate for energy efficiency programs and services. The Symposium seeks to address opportunities and challenges within the field with a stimulating program covering the latest hot topics, updates on current program approaches, new strategies for program design, integration of multiple program objectives, and evaluation methodologies. Over the past several years we've seen many shifts in the dominant market forces that drive and hinder improvements in energy efficiency: a struggling economy, the rise and fall of climate legislation, rapid technology development, and a growing awareness of the potential for energy efficiency to help meet our economic and environmental goals. All of these forces, both positive and negative, highlight an important strategic need for the efficiency community: to look beyond short term opportunities and toward sustainable, long term business practices. The 2011 National Symposium on Market Transformation will examine the major transitions taking place across many sectors of the field of energy efficiency. During the plenary session, 6 concurrent sessions, and 20 working sessions, presenters and participants will discuss how we can work together to both drive these changes, respond to emerging challenges, and make the most of opportunities as they unfold.

IPAA NY Forum Set to Look at Investment Community – The Independent Petroleum Assn of American (IPAA) will hold its Oil & Gas Investment Symposium New York (OGIS New York) at the Sheraton NY Hotel & Towers on April 11 – 13. It has become the premier outlet for publicly traded independent exploration and production, service and supply and MLP companies to present their company profiles to the investment community. Last year's OGIS New York attracted over 1,600 attendees, including more than 800 buy/sell-side analysts. With everything going on in the oil/gas industry over the past year, this might be an event to watch.

Bluewater Head to Address Yale Group – Peter Mandelstam, Founder and President of Bluewater Wind will deliver a lecture at the Yale's Center for Environmental Law and Policy on Tuesday April 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Kroon Hall's Burke Auditorium in New Haven. Mandelstam is expected to discuss offshore wind and its future role in reducing climate emissions

Forum to Look at EPA Impacts – SNL Financial will hold a webinar on Tuesday, April 12th at 1:30 p.m. to look at the electric utility sector as it braces for major policy initiatives being moved by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA is proposing new rules that will have a major impact on the industry, including the Maximum Achievable Control Technology for utilities (MACT) rule, mercury, arsenic and certain other emissions standards for coal-fired and oil-fired electric generating units and a rule addressing structures at power plants that draw in water for cooling. MACT will require a plant-by-plant standard for various hazardous air pollutants and is scheduled to be finalized in November. The Cooling Water Intake Structure standards, or CWIS, are designed to protect fish and other aquatic life and will impact roughly 60% of U.S. nuclear plants and hundreds of coal-fired stations. The so-called Clean Air Mercury Rule will impact around 1,200 coal-fired units and 150 oil-fired units and the national annual cost of complying with the proposed rule is estimated to be \$10.9 billion in 2016. In addition, the EPA proposed the Clean Air Transport Rule in July 2010, which is scheduled to be finalized in June and take effect in 2012. The transport rule applies to large generators in 31 states and the District of Columbia. It replaces the 2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule and regulates SO₂ and NO_x. A panel of experts will discuss how these EPA policies may have implications for short- and long-term generation planning and generation strategy. Panelists include our friend Bryan Hannegan of EPRI, former assistant Energy Secretary who has downplayed the impacts Sue Tierney and former NY Gov George Pataki Chief of Staff John Cahill.

ELI to Look at Upcoming SCOTUS Climate Case – Environmental Law Institute will hold a seminar on Wednesday, April 13th at Noon to look at on the next landmark Supreme Court climate case. In what many are calling the most important environmental case since *Massachusetts v. EPA*, on April 19 the Supreme Court will hear arguments to decide whether states and private parties can sue power companies under federal common law for contributing to global warming and compel them to cap CO₂ emissions. The case "American Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut" was originally brought in 2004 by various states, New York City and several land trusts against certain utilities, arguing that the utilities were creating a public nuisance because they were emitting greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Though three other similar cases have been brought around the country, none has yet made it to trial--and AEP is the first to reach the Supreme Court. Significant developments include: the recusal of Justice Sonya Sotomayor; an Obama administration brief filed on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority that sides with industry; and a brief by G.O.P. lawmakers saying that the case involves political and public policy matters that should be left to the legislative and executive branches of the government to address. Environmentalists point out that, to date, there is little to indicate that the other branches of government are taking meaningful action to limit greenhouse gas emissions. A high-level panel will discuss and debate the major issues at play and the likely outcome of the case, including the critical questions of constitutional standing and application of the "political question doctrine," as well as whether a federal common law cause of action to cap climate emissions exists -- and, if so, whether EPA's actions to date on climate change have effectively displaced it. Panelists include Richard Bress of Latham & Watkins, Eric Glitzenstein of Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, Widener University Law professor James May and David Rivkin of Baker & Hostetler.

Newsmakers to Look at Future of Nuclear Power, Japan Impacts – The National Press Club Newsmakers will hold the first in a series newsmakers on the future of nuclear power and Japanese crisis on April 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Lisagor Room. I am hosting the event and we're coming out the box strong with an all-star panel that features RFF President and Blue Ribbon Commission member Phil Sharp, financial energy analyst Kevin Book and Greenpeace nuclear expert Jim Riccio. Future panels are expected on health issues and an industry perspective.

McCarthy, Sutley Headline Carbon Forum – Our friends at Point Carbon are hosting a forum in Los Angeles on April 14 and 15 called *Navigating the American Carbon World (NACW) 2011* will feature experts and leaders in carbon policy and regulation. Speakers include EPA's Gina McCarthy, CEQ's Nancy Sutley, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Linda Adams and CARB Chair Mary Nichols.

Mass Gov. Deval Patrick to Hit Press Club – The National Press Club will host a luncheon with Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick on Thursday, April 14th to discuss his memoirs. Expected discussion topic will include Cape Wind and the nasty fight over the project that the Governor supported.

ELI Forum to Investigate Gas Drilling Issues – Environmental Law Institute will hold a seminar on Thursday, April 14th at Noon to look at the nuts and bolts of Marcellus Shale drilling and fracking. Abundant, inexpensive, and lower in emissions than traditional coal power sources, natural gas is expected to play an enormous role in our energy future. The economic, energy and environmental implications of natural gas are amplified by fast-moving legal developments, including many proposals for new studies, regulations and legislation. An expert panel will discuss these developments in Marcellus Shale, where the issues mirror those of other gas fields across the country, and stay tuned for our second installment on May 19, 2011, *Policy Implications of Marcellus Shale Drilling and Fracking*, where we will build on this discussion and talk about policy implications of Marcellus Shale drilling in a national energy context. The experts include Terry Bossert of Chief Oil & Gas, Sierra Club's Deborah Nardone, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Elizabeth Nolan.

Trans-Elect's Mitchell to Headline Offshore Wind Conference – The 4th annual North American Offshore Wind Development & Finance Summit will be held in Washington, DC at the Almas Temple Club on April 11th -14th. The event will focus on the emergence of technologies that will enable wind farms in the deeper waters prevalent in many regions of North America, as well as the tangible progress being made in testing and commercializing designs. The Summit will once again bring leading developers together with the policymakers, equipment vendors, vessel providers, engineering firms and utility customers needed to complete offshore wind projects. Trans-Elect's Bob Mitchell will make a special address and lead a list of more than 60 speakers. Mitchell is leading Trans-Elect's effort to develop the Atlantic Wind Connection, a visionary and transformative subsea transmission backbone designed to enable offshore wind energy development in the Mid-Atlantic region. Recently, Trans-Elect was named *EnergyBiz's* 2011 Energy Company of the Year."

Cato Forum to Look at Transportation – The Cato Institute will host an event on Friday, April 15th at Noon on America's transportation future in B-340 Rayburn. With Congress poised to pass a surface transportation reauthorization bill in 2011, America's transportation system is at a crossroads. Should we emphasize high-cost forms of transportation, such as light rail and high-speed rail, whose main goal is to get a few people out of their cars? Or should we find low-cost technologies that can increase personal mobility for everyone, regardless of their income? Panelists Alan Pisarski will discuss the future of urban commuting, Clyde Hart will describe the current and future state of intercity bus transportation, and Randal O'Toole will show how future automobile technologies will save more energy and relieve congestion at a lower cost than heavy investments in new infrastructure.

Supreme Court to Hear *AEP v. CT* Case – On Tuesday, April 19th, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will hear arguments on the *Connecticut v. AEP* Case.

CSIS Forum to Focus on Spill Issues – The Center for Security and International Studies will host another event in its Energy and National Security Program on April 19th, 9:00 a.m. focused on the impacts of the Gulf oil spill.

Turner, T. Boone Debate Energy at Press Club – The National Press Club will host a luncheon debate on Tuesday, April 19th focusing on American energy policy. It will feature Ted Turner, chairman of Ted Turner Enterprises and CNN founder, and T. Boone Pickens, founder of BP Capitol, to debate. Pickens will outline his "Pickens Plan" to reduce America's dependence on Middle East oil through alternate energy sources, such as wind, solar power, and natural gas. Turner will discuss renewable solar energy, including his recent solar projects in New Mexico and Atlanta, as well as nuclear disarmament and global politics. As usual, lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. with the speeches beginning at 1 p.m.

US FWS to Host Wind Turbine Guidelines Meeting – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee meeting on April 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 530, Arlington and is open to the public. The meeting agenda will include a presentation and discussion of the Service's Draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines. FWS recently released a draft of its voluntary guidelines for land-based wind energy project development in an effort to encourage responsible selection of project. Unfortunately, the FWS guidance deviates significantly from the consensus recommendations of a three-year stakeholder process. Among other problems with the guidance, it could delay construction of projects by up to three years. As well, it may require operating projects to retroactively conduct post-construction wildlife studies for a minimum of two and as much as five years, adding unforeseen costs to the operating budgets of these facilities. This meeting will feature the first real discussion among stakeholders of the Service's new guidelines.

MD Gov to Address Green Building Summit – The US Green Building Council will hold its annual Government Summit 2011 on May 10-11 in Washington, D.C. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. There will be many panels and speakers on energy efficient buildings and new green technologies. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley will be a featured Keynote Speaker among many others.

WINDPOWER 2011 Set for Anaheim – WINDPOWER 2011 Conference & Exhibition is set for Anaheim, CA on May 22-25 in the Convention Center. Speakers will include Ted Turner, Jay Leno and many more. Stay tuned for more information as this gets closer.

SNL to Host Power Policy Forum – The SNL Power Policy Forum will be held on June 7th at New York's Union League Club. It will bring together panels of Washington insiders to New York to clarify and opine on Federal action in the energy sector and its impact on power companies and their investors. Key topics include the impact of primacy decisions and cost allocation on the expansion of America's transmission infrastructure; Dodd-Frank, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and energy trading; the effect on utilities and the energy chain of proposed EPA revisions to the Clean Air Act; and the congressional legislative agenda under the current political regime. Speakers will include myself and our friends Kevin Book of ClearView Energy Partners, Jim Lucier of Capital Alpha Partners and Christine Tezak of R.W. Baird,

as well as Senate Energy Republican Staff Director McKie Campbell, PJM's Craig Glazer and FERC Commissioner Phil Moeller and others.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:32 PM
To: 'browndm@washpost.com'
Subject: Re: kudos on the sunday story

If we can help just holler. Scott Burnell is our reactor pro.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: David Brown <browndm@washpost.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 13:23:37 2011
Subject: Re: kudos on the sunday story

Dear Mr. Brenner

Thanks very much for this. I heard from another of the NRC press officers, who also liked the story and suggested that perhaps I should have consulted the NRC for it. Which I should have, even though I had mountains of material.

best
DB

beat

David Brown National Staff The Washington Post

browndm@washpost.com (202) 334-5049

"Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>

To "browndm@washpost.com" <browndm@washpost.com>

cc

04/04/2011 11:23 AM

Subject kudos on the sunday story

Mr. Brown: I am the flack for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, currently in Vienna for an IAEA Japan-related event. I finally got caught up on the clips and saw your Sunday piece. It was the most clear and dispassionate piece on nuclear I have read during this entire episode. My compliments on a darn fine job. Thanks.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. NRC
Rockville, MD (by way of Austria at the moment)

BY/1128

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Jaczko, Gregory; Doane, Margaret; Borchardt, Bill; Marshall, Michael
Subject: Re: Is amb davies ok

Yes. He said they were right on the mark.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Jaczko, Gregory

To: Brenner, Eliot

Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:47:25 2011

Subject: Fw: Is amb davies ok

Can you get this answered for me

----- Original Message -----

From: Jaczko, Gregory

To: Doane, Margaret; Borchardt, Bill; Marshall, Michael

Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:37:10 2011

Subject: Is amb davies ok

With the statements of support to iaea june 20 mtg that are in my talking points

BU/1129

From: Coggins, Angela
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Fyi...
Angela Coggins
Policy Director
Office of Chairman Gregory B Jaczko
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
angela.coggins@nrc.gov/301-415-1828

From: Coggins, Angela
To: Jaczko, Gregory
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:55:57 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Sir, this is what I got back when I originally asked the question about amb daves...
Angela Coggins
Policy Director
Office of Chairman Gregory B Jaczko
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
angela.coggins@nrc.gov/301-415-1828

From: Schwartzman, Jennifer
To: Doane, Margaret; Jones, Andrea; Coggins, Angela; Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Sat Apr 02 11:40:52 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

FYI - Amb Davies has already committed USG participation in June mtg.
Sent from an NRC Blackberry

From: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
To: Schwartzman, Jennifer
Sent: Sat Apr 02 11:37:21 2011
Subject: Re: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

The U.S. is definitely going to support it, and Ambo has already said that publicly, during the Technical Briefing when Amano announced it. Recall that it was the 5 Ambassadors here that pushed Amano to call for this in the first place.

As for who is going....Secretary Clinton for sure is not going, and highly unlikely Secretary Chu will come either. The cable, in reply to Amano did not indicate who, but Davies was thinking Chairman Jaczco would come.

Mark

From: Schwartzman, Jennifer <Jennifer.Schwartzman@nrc.gov>
To: Shaffer, Mark R
Sent: Sat Apr 02 17:07:27 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Can you help me confirm this
Sent from an NRC Blackberry


From: Doane, Margaret
To: Coggins, Angela; Loyd, Susan; Batkin, Joshua; Schwartzman, Jennifer
Sent: Sat Apr 02 10:41:44 2011
Subject: Re: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Jen can you confirm, or I can do it with Davies. Will double check. I think only question is who will go-Clinton and Jaczko in latest cables.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

From: Coggins, Angela
To: Doane, Margaret; Loyd, Susan; Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Sat Apr 02 09:48:32 2011
Subject: Fw: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Margie, is the U.S. Govt ready to support Amano's June conference? I don't want him getting out ahead of the U.S.
Angela Coggins
Policy Director
Office of Chairman Gregory B Jaczko
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
angela.coggins@nrc.gov/301-415-1828

From: Susan Loyd <(b)(6)> 
To: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Loyd, Susan; Brummer, Eliot; Doane, Margaret; Marshall, Michael; Jones, Andrea; Warren, Roberta; Coggins, Angela; Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Sat Apr 02 09:33:03 2011
Subject: Revised Remarks for Monday Night

Here are clean copies of the text and bullets. The paragraph that is in question is in the middle, regarding the 50-mile evacuation decision. I will leave that up to you to discuss with the Chairman and decide if you want to delete it or not. There are several sentences that are involved. This is about 11 minutes, at his usual speaking speed.

Eliot - I will copy the new text version into the body of an email and send to you. Thanks everyone!
Susan

PREPARED REMARKS FOR CNS MONDAY MEETING

I would like to reiterate my condolences to all those who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Our hearts go out to all who have been dealing with the aftermath of these natural disasters, and we are mindful of the long and difficult road they will face in recovering. We know that the people of Japan are resilient and strong, and we have every confidence that they will come through this terrible time and move forward, with resolve, to rebuild their vibrant country.

I made a brief visit to Japan last week. I wanted to convey a message of support and cooperation to our Japanese counterparts there and to assess the ongoing situation. I also met with senior Japanese government and TEPCO officials, and consulted with a team of experts from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission who went to Japan as part of our assistance effort.

NRC Response to Japan Events

I'd like to take a few minutes to address the response of the NRC to the tragic events in Japan, and then to briefly describe how we plan to proceed.

On Friday, March 11, when the earthquake and tsunami struck, the NRC's headquarters Operations Center began operating on a 24-hour basis to monitor and analyze events at nuclear power plants in Japan. At the request of the Japanese government, and through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the NRC sent a team of its technical experts to provide on-the-ground support, and we have been in continual contact with them since that time. And, within the United States, the NRC has been working closely with other Federal agencies as part of our government's response to the situation.

Shortly after 4:00 AM (Washington, DC time) on Friday, March 11th, the NRC Emergency Operations Center made the first telephone call to inform NRC management of the

earthquake and the potential impact on U.S. plants. We went into monitoring mode at our Emergency Operations Center, and the NRC's initial focus was on the possible impacts of the tsunami on U.S. plants and radioactive materials on the West Coast, and in Hawaii, Alaska, and U.S. Territories in the Pacific.

We were in communication with our licensees and our resident inspectors at Diablo Canyon Power Plant and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California, and the Radiation Control Program Directors for California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii.

On that same day, we began interactions with our Japanese regulatory counterparts and dispatched two experts to Japan to help at the embassy in Tokyo.

By Monday, March 14, we had dispatched a total of 11 NRC staff to Japan. We have subsequently rotated in additional staff to continue on-the-ground assistance in Japan. The areas of focus for this team are: 1) to assist the Japanese government and respond to requests from our Japanese regulatory counterparts; 2) to support the U.S. Ambassador and the U.S. government assistance effort.

On Wednesday, March 16, we collaborated with other U.S. government agencies and decided to advise American citizens to evacuate within a 50-mile range around the plant. We believed this decision was a prudent course of action, and would be consistent with what we would do in a similar situation in the United States. This evacuation range was predicated on the information that we had available at the time, which indicated the possibility that reactor cores and spent fuel pools may have been compromised.

We have been working with an extensive range of stakeholders regarding the Japan situation, including the White House, Congressional staff, our state regulatory counterparts, a number of other federal agencies, and the international regulatory bodies around the world.

Steps Already Taken

The NRC's program of continuous improvement in the future will include lessons learned from the events in Japan. We already have begun enhancing inspection activities through temporary instructions to our inspection staff, including the resident inspectors and the inspectors in our four Regional offices.

We've also issued an information notice to licensees to make them aware of activities they should undertake to verify that their capabilities to mitigate conditions due to severe accidents—including the loss of significant operational and safety systems—are in effect and operational. Specific conditions include a total loss of electric power, flooding, and damage from seismic events.

On their own initiative, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) issued a Level I Event Report (highest level) to its members on March 15, identifying four actions requiring written responses. Those include walkdowns and verifications of capabilities to address large fires and explosions; severe accident management guidelines; mitigation of station blackout conditions; internal and external flooding, and fire and flooding events that could be impacted by a concurrent seismic event.

NRC Plans Moving Forward

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On March 21, my fellow Commissioners and I established a senior level task force to conduct a comprehensive review of our processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make improvements to our regulatory system.

This review will be conducted in a short-term and a longer-term timeframe. The short-term review has already begun, and will identify potential or preliminary near-term operational or regulatory issues. A longer-term review will begin as soon as we have sufficient information from Japan. That review will be completed in six months from the beginning of the evaluation. The task force's reports will be publicly available.

The task force will evaluate all technical and policy issues related to the event to identify additional potential research, generic issues, changes to the reactor oversight process, rulemakings, and adjustments to the regulatory framework that should be pursued by the NRC. We also expect to evaluate issues that may involve multiple U.S. Government agencies, such as emergency preparedness. We will seek input from all key stakeholders during this process. Based on what we learn in our review, we will take all of the appropriate actions that are necessary to ensure the continuing safety of the American people.

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TALKING POINTS FOR CNS MONDAY MEETING RE: JAPAN

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- I appreciate the opportunity to address you this evening.

From: Wald, Matthew <mattwald@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:08 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: You in Japan?

Thanks, Eliot.

Matthew L. Wald
Washington Bureau
The New York Times
1627 Eye St NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
202-862-0363
cell: (b)(6)
fax: 202-318-0057

<http://www.nytimes.com/info/nuclear-energy/>
twitter: mattwaldnyt

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Wald, Matthew
Subject: Re: You in Japan?

In Vienna at IAEA/CNS listening to GOJ explain what they know abt reactors. Unsure re navy. Perhaps beth can track down on deep background.

Can tell you nrc engineers dreamed up potential pumping device to raise seawater (or water) to reactor level. It was drawn as a crude sketch and given to bechtel which did formal design, had it built in australia and flown in by aussie AF. Beth can help there and give you bechtel contact and #.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Wald, Matthew <mattwald@nytimes.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:50:29 2011
Subject: You in Japan?

A utility company engineer who was in close contact with some of the NRC folks who man the emergency center tells me that in the hours after the tsunami, the NRC engineers told Tepco that it would need diesel-driven pumps, fire hoses and portable diesel generators, and that all of these were available from a US Navy base in Japan, which would deliver them within hours, if asked. But Tepco didn't ask.
Can you share anything about this?

--- Matt

Matthew L. Wald
Washington Bureau
The New York Times
1627 Eye St NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
202-862-0363
cell: (b)(6)
fax: 202-318-0057

<http://www.nytimes.com/info/nuclear-energy/>
twitter: mattwaldnyt

From: E&E Publishing, LLC <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: April 4 -- Greenwire is ready



AN E&E PUBLISHING SERVICE

GREENWIRE -- MON., APRIL 4, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **CLIMATE:** Conservative group drafts, promotes anti-EPA bills in state legislatures

A Virginia state lawmaker caused a stir in February when he admitted that his resolution declaring U.S. EPA's effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions a "regulatory train wreck" was written by the coal industry. Republican Delegate Will Morefield's resolution said EPA regulations would have potentially "devastating consequences," called for a "comprehensive study" of their impact on the economy and urged Congress to place a two-year moratorium on new air pollution regulations.

TOP STORIES

2. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Salazar denies reports of BP permit talks
3. **MINING:** Judges leaning toward Massey in Upper Big Branch case
4. **DRINKING WATER:** Utilities failed to alert public to presence of likely carcinogen, group says

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Critics zero in on DOE projects, urge moratorium on new reactors
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Contaminated water to be dumped into the ocean
7. **NUCLEAR:** GE head defends industry
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Int'l regulators undertake 'unprecedented' review of industry
9. **SOLID WASTE:** Japan disaster leaves tons of trash -- and dilemmas about what to do with it

POLITICS

B071132

10. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** Wis. among states applying for Fla.'s discarded funds

ENERGY

11. **ENERGY MARKETS:** N.Y. officials, grid operator vow to fight FERC power decision

12. **COAL:** World Bank to decrease funding for new power plants

13. **NATURAL GAS:** Utah conservation groups reach deal with drilling company

14. **OIL AND GAS:** Abandoned wells are a growing problem as drilling increases

15. **PIPELINES:** LaHood cracks down on safety with new campaign

FEDERAL AGENCIES

16. **INTERIOR:** IG finds no 'leaderless malaise' at Nat'l Bison Range

17. **EPA:** Watchdog groups bash Office of Civil Rights, despite Jackson's praise

BUSINESS

18. **COAL:** Alpha moves closer to \$7B Massey buyout

TRANSPORTATION

19. **AUTOS:** Federal green fleet mandate won't apply to security vehicles

AIR AND WATER

20. **MINING:** EPA delays final guidance for mountaintop water-pollution permits

21. **DRINKING WATER:** GAO decries CDC analysis of D.C. lead contamination

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

22. **ENERGY POLICY:** Third Way's Freed discusses administration's new direction

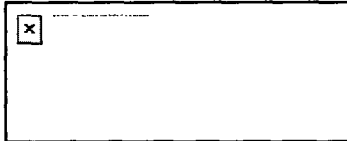
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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 12:42 PM
To: 'GavrilovicM@cbsnews.com'
Subject: Re: 60 Minutes/Update?

I am in austria at an IAEA meeting. Our role remains the same. We can talk next week.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Gavrilovic, Maria <GavrilovicM@cbsnews.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Apr 04 12:32:17 2011
Subject: 60 Minutes/Update?

Hi Eliot,

I wanted to touch base with you to see if anything has changed since we last spoke. We're still in the research phase of our story and figuring out what angle to pursue. What is the latest on your front? Has the NRC's role changed with respect to Japan? Are you doing anything differently?

Feel free to email or call me — (b)(6)

Maria

BU 1133

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Dorman, Dan
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Blog entry

Dan – I forwarded this to Eliot, who is now in Europe. This isn't exactly what we were looking for.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Holly

From: Dorman, Dan
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:04 AM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: Fw: Blog entry

Holly,

Please find my input attached. This has already been cleared by the press office at the embassy.

Be advised that the embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission has requested to use it as a guest blogger on his blog on the embassy's website as well. He gets about 40,000 hits a week and about 75 percent are Japanese; he sees this entry as a positive outreach both on the efforts of the Japanese and on our supporting role. He would like to post it by the end of the week.

Thanks

Dan

From: Dorman, Dan
To: Dorman, Dan
Sent: Fri Apr 01 22:18:25 2011
Subject: Blog entry

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 12:20 PM
To: Emche, Danielle
Subject: speech text attached
Attachments: Speech for Monday Night (2) -TEXT.docx

BU/1135

**REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN GREGORY B. JACZKO
SIDE EVENT ON FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI ACCIDENT
5TH REVIEW MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY
APRIL 4, 2011
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

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From: laura.j.brown@faa.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:51 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Looks like you've been busy

Sorry we didn't get a chance to talk (b)(6) Happy travels!

Laura J. Brown
Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Public Affairs
202-267-3455 W
(b)(6) C

From: "Brenner, Eliot" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Laura J Brown/AWA/FAA@FAA
Date: 04/04/2011 11:13 AM
Subject: Looks like you've been busy

I am up to my backside in radioactive stuff. I'm getting stuck on the dias behind our chairman during a 2-hour huge international presentation by the japanese and us on the reactor snafu.

(b)(6)

Good news, there will be a followon meeting to this one in June, in vienna, and I will probably get to go because of major media interest.

(b)(6)

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

B4/1136

From: E.Fritz@iaea.org
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:26 AM
To: R.Ayache@iaea.org; R.Morgart@iaea.org; Brenner, Eliot
Cc: F.Klimscha@iaea.org
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED
Attachments: image003.jpg

its the quality that counts, not the quantity ... :-)

From: AYACHE, Rabih
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:22
To: FRITZ, Eva; MORGART, Ruth Ellen; 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

:)

the bright side: only 6 hours left of this Monday

From: FRITZ, Eva
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:20
To: MORGART, Ruth Ellen; AYACHE, Rabih; 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

:~))) we love to hear that!!!

From: MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:19
To: AYACHE, Rabih; 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances; FRITZ, Eva
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

Many Thanks Rabih—you're a prince!

Kind regards,
Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6)

 (Mobile)

r.morgart@iaea.org



From: AYACHE, Rabih
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:17
To: 'Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov'
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances; FRITZ, Eva; MORGART, Ruth Ellen
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED

No problem. I'll replace the original.
Regards,
Rabih

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, 04 April 2011 17:15
To: Brenner, Eliot; MORGART, Ruth Ellen; FRITZ, Eva; AYACHE, Rabih
Cc: KLIMSCHA, Frances
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- REVISED
Importance: High

updated slides, hope we are not too late and apologize for having to make a revision.

eliot

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 11:04 AM
To: R.Morgart@iaea.org; E.Fritz@iaea.org; R.Ayache@iaea.org
Cc: F.Klimscha@iaea.org
Subject: RE: jaczko slides -- minor change coming

in about 10 minutes. sorry, he wants to add one bit of detail to a slide. we will work as fast as we can.

eliot

From: R.Morgart@iaea.org [R.Morgart@iaea.org]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:27 AM
To: E.Fritz@iaea.org; R.Ayache@iaea.org
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; F.Klimscha@iaea.org
Subject: FW: jaczko slides

Dear Eva/ Rabih,

Please find attached the US presentation to coincide with Chairman Jaczko's speech please copy for general distribution as with the other presentations for the Side Event meeting.

Kind regards,

Ruth Morgart
Communications Advisor

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100 B0926
1400 Vienna, Austria
+43 (1) 2600 26176 (Office)
+43 (1) 2600 29218 (Fax)

(b)(6)

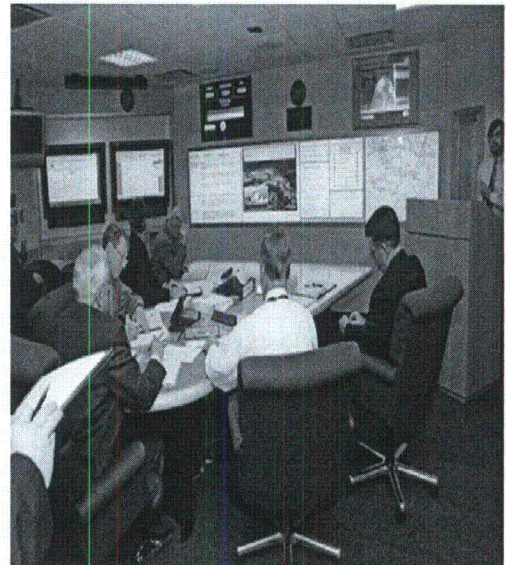
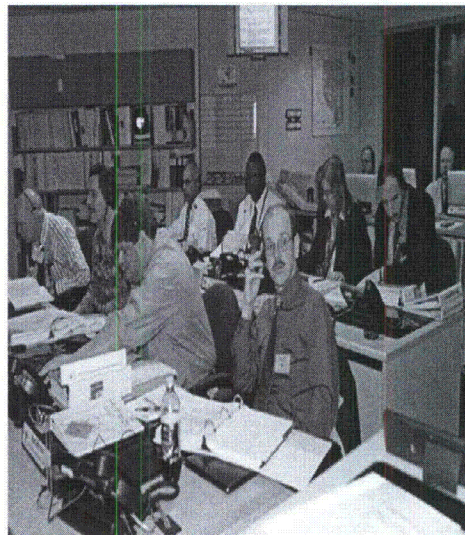
 (Mobile)
r.morgart@iaea.org

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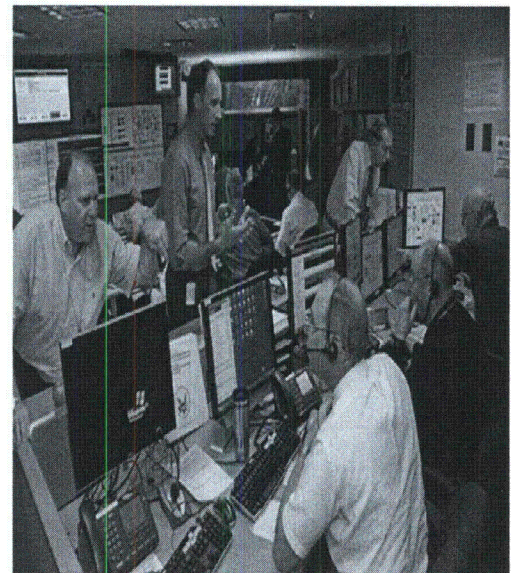


NRC Initial Response

- Began 24-Hour Monitoring and Analysis



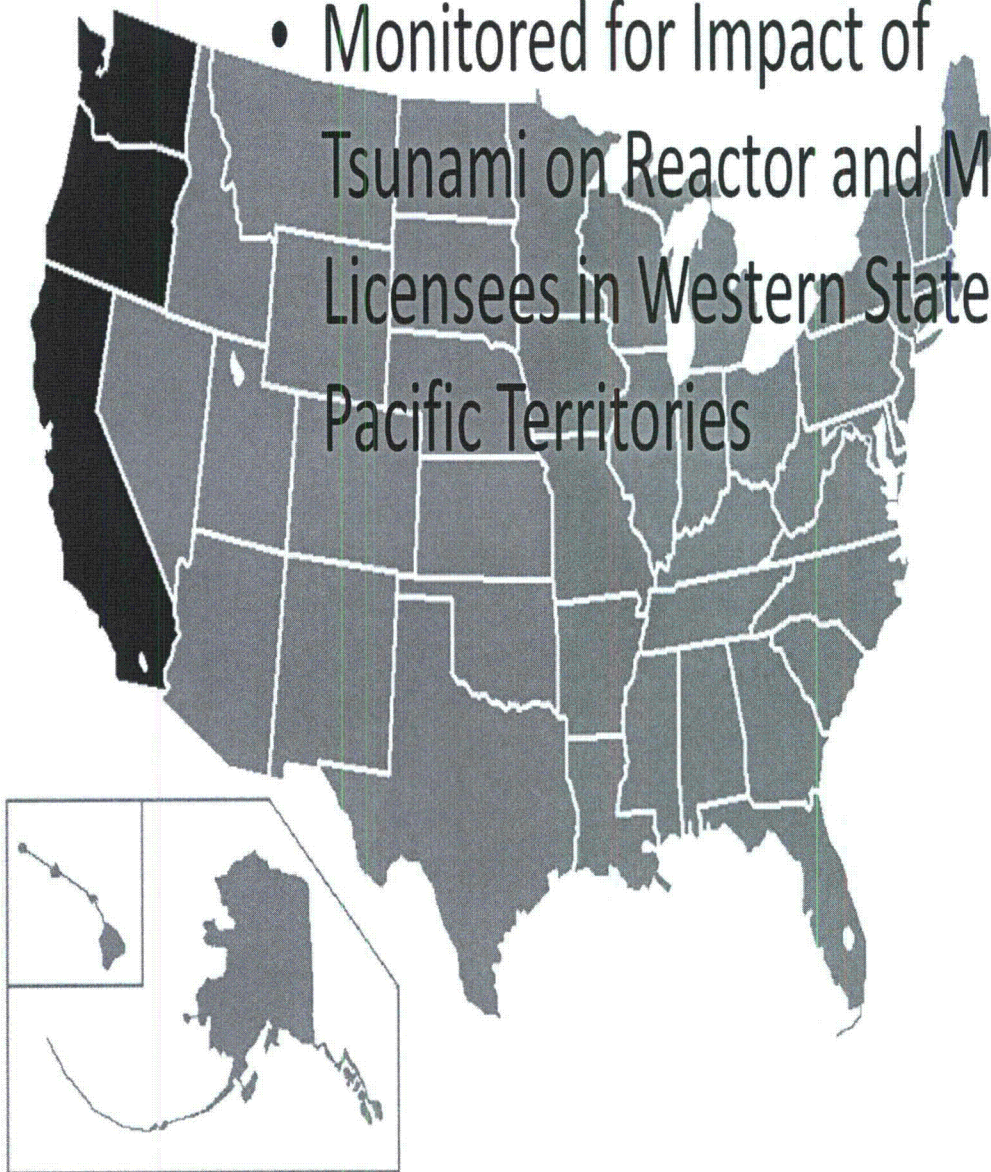
- Sent NRC Team to Offer Expert Advice





NRC Initial Response

- Monitored for Impact of Tsunami on Reactor and Material Licensees in Western States and Pacific Territories





US Government Coordination

- Coordinate Technical Advice to Japan
- Coordinate Technical Support to Japan
- Advise U.S. Ambassador

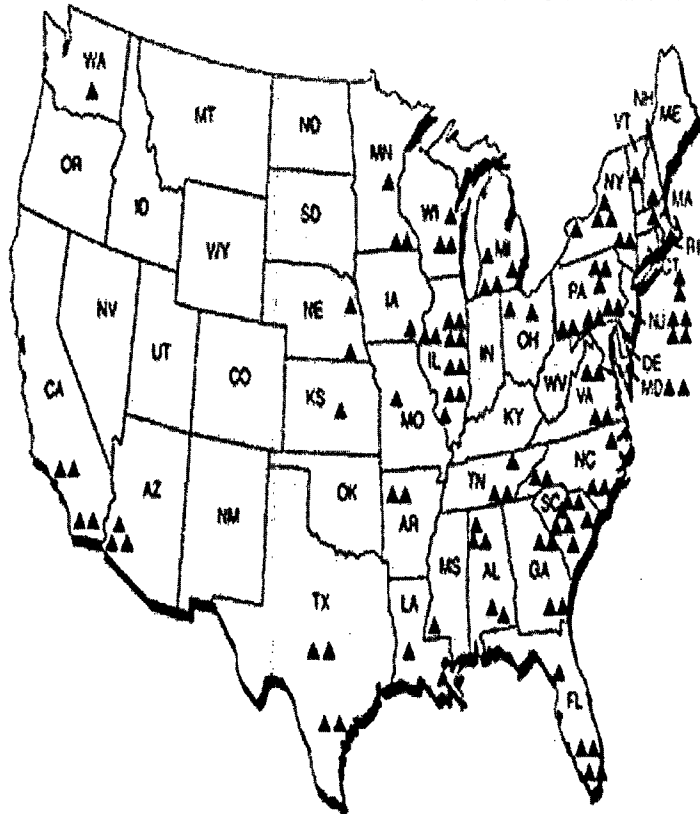


NRC Ongoing Activities

- Informed NRC Reactor Licensees
 - Verify Capabilities to Mitigate Conditions Due to Severe Accidents

- Inspection of NRC Reactor Licensees Preparedness

Operating nuclear power plants in the United States.
There are no reactors in AK or HI.





NRC Planned Activities

- 90-Day Near-Term Review
 - Evaluate currently available technical and operational information from the events
 - Identify potential or preliminary near term/immediate operational or regulatory issue
 - Develop recommendations, as appropriate, for potential changes



NRC Planned Activities

- Long-Term Systematic and Methodical Review
(6 Months After 90-Day Review)
 - Compile specific information on the sequence of events and the status of equipment during the duration of the event.
 - Evaluate all technical and policy issues related to the event to identify potential research, generic issues, changes to the reactor oversight process, rulemakings, and adjustments to the regulatory framework

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 4:20 PM
To: JIM EFSTATHIOU JR., BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: reviews
Attachments: 11-062.pdf

Jim;

The best answer is found in the press releases we issued regarding the review:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/11-055.pdf> and the one I've attached.

Let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks.

Scott

-----Original Message-----

From: JIM EFSTATHIOU JR., BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: [mailto:jefstathiou@bloomberg.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:15 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: reviews

Scott,

I'm a bit confused on the question of the internal review that President Obama requested. I thought it was meant to be limited to safety issues that emerge from the investigation of what happened in Japan. Then I saw the chairman's comments at the March 31 House hearing where he said:

"I established a senior level task force to conduct a comprehensive review of our processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make improvements to our regulatory system."

That sounds more open ended. Can you shed some light on this for me?

Jim

Jim Efstathiou Jr.
Bloomberg News
731 Lexington Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Tel: 212 617 1647

Cell: (b)(6)

E-mail: jefstathiou@bloomberg.net

BV/1138



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov Site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

No. 11-062

April 1, 2011

NRC APPOINTS TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND APPROVES CHARTER FOR REVIEW OF AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO JAPAN NUCLEAR EVENT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has named six senior managers and staff to its task force for examining the agency's regulatory requirements, programs, processes, and implementation in light of information from the Fukushima Daiichi site in Japan, following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

The task force will be led by Dr. Charles Miller, Director of the NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs. Other task force members are Daniel Dorman, Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS); Jack Grobe, Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR); Gary Holahan, Deputy Director of the Office of New Reactors (NRO); Nathan Sanfilippo, Executive Technical Assistant, Office of the Executive Director for Operations; and Amy Cabbage, Team Leader, NRO.

"The task force will talk to agency technical experts and gather information to conduct a comprehensive review of the information from the events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex and make recommendations for any improvements needed to our regulatory system," Miller said. "We plan to provide our observations, conclusions and recommendations in a written report that will be made public approximately 90 days after we start our review."

According to the charter, the task force will conduct a near-term review and identify topics for assessment for a longer term review. Initially, the task force will identify potential near-term actions that affect U.S. power reactors, including their spent fuel pools. Areas to be reviewed include station blackout (loss of all A/C power for a reactor), external events that could lead to a prolonged loss of cooling, plant capabilities for preventing or dealing with such circumstances, and emergency preparedness. The task force will draw from ongoing NRC inspections to verify availability of plant equipment, procedures, and other resources currently required for dealing with such events. The task force will also gather information from domestic and international sources while remaining independent of any industry initiatives.

The task force expects to develop recommendations for Commission consideration on whether it should require immediate enhancements at U.S. reactors and any changes to NRC regulations, inspection procedures, and licensing processes.

On May 12 and June 16, the task force plans to brief the Commission in public meetings on the status of the review. Recommendations will be reported in a July 19 Commission meeting, which will be open to the public. The report will also be made available to the public. The task force charter, at the end of this release, will also be available through the NRC's ADAMS electronic document database by entering ML11089A045 under the "Simple Search" tab on this webpage: <http://wba.nrc.gov:8080/vcs/>.

Biographical information for the task force members is provided below.

Charles L. Miller has worked at NRC since 1980, has served as the Director of the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs since 2006. He has held various management positions in offices dealing with safety of nuclear reactors, waste and materials, including nuclear medicine. Miller received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Widener University, a master's and doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Maryland, and is a registered professional engineer licensed in the District of Columbia.

Daniel H. Dorman has 20 years of service with the NRC and has served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. During his career at NRC, Dorman also worked in the offices of NRR, Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR). Prior to joining the NRC, Dorman served in the U.S. Navy's nuclear power program. He received a bachelor's degree in naval architecture and marine engineering from the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture.

Jack Grobe has worked for the NRC for over 30 years and has served as the Deputy Office Director for Engineering in NRR since 2007. He started as an inspector in the NRC regional office outside Chicago, Illinois, and moved up to chair a number of task force groups including the Davis-Besse Oversight Panel following discovery of the reactor vessel head corrosion and Nuclear Security Special Projects to enhance reactor capabilities to deal with fires or explosions caused by potential malevolent acts. Grobe has a master's degree in bionucleonics and a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering, both from Purdue University.

Gary M. Holahan has 35 years of service with the NRC and has served as the Deputy Director for NRO since 2006. During his career at the NRC, Holahan has worked in a number of technical and management positions, including nine years as the Director of NRR's Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, and in the Chairman's office where he covered NRC reactor and research programs. Holahan's assignments have also included the Three Mile Island Lessons Learned Task Force, the post-9/11 development of security advisories and orders, and the U.S. - Canada Blackout Report. Mr. Holahan received a bachelor's degree in physics from Manhattan College and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Catholic University of America.

Nathan T. Sanfilippo has worked for the NRC for nine years and has served as an Executive Technical Assistant in the Office of the Executive Director for Operations since May 2010. Prior to his current position, he worked in NRR, NRO, and NSIR on nuclear power plants performance assessment, emergency preparedness inspections, new reactor licensing, and aircraft attack mitigation measures. Sanfilippo earned a bachelor's degree in materials science and

engineering and a minor in global business strategies from the Pennsylvania State University, as well as a certificate in legislative studies from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

Amy E. Cubbage has worked at the NRC for 22 years and currently serves in NRO as a team leader. Cubbage has extensive experience working on boiling-water reactor system reviews and as the lead project manager for the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Design Certification. Cubbage received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Virginia.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.

**CHARTER FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TASK FORCE
TO CONDUCT A NEAR-TERM EVALUATION OF THE NEED FOR AGENCY ACTIONS
FOLLOWING THE EVENTS IN JAPAN**

Objective

The objective of this task force is to conduct a methodical and systematic review of relevant NRC regulatory requirements, programs, and processes, and their implementation, to recommend whether the agency should make near-term improvements to our regulatory system. This task force will also identify a framework and topics for review and assessment for the longer-term effort.

Scope

The task force review will include the following:

a. A near-term review to:

- Evaluate currently available technical and operational information from the events that have occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex in Japan to identify potential or preliminary near-term/immediate operational or regulatory actions affecting domestic reactors of all designs, including their spent fuel pools. The task force will evaluate, at a minimum, the following technical issues and determine priority for further examination and potential agency action:
 - External event issues (e.g. seismic, flooding, fires, severe weather)
 - Station blackout
 - Severe accident measures (e.g., combustible gas control, emergency operating procedures, severe accident management guidelines)
 - 10 CFR 50.54 (hh)(2) which states, "Each licensee shall develop and implement guidance and strategies intended to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities under the circumstances associated with loss of large areas of the plant due to explosions or fire, to include strategies in the following areas: (i) Fire fighting; (ii) Operations to mitigate fuel damage; and (iii) Actions to minimize radiological release." Also known as B.5.b.
 - Emergency preparedness (e.g., emergency communications, radiological protection, emergency planning zones, dose projections and modeling, protective actions)

Develop recommendations, as appropriate, for potential changes to NRC's regulatory requirements, programs, and processes, and recommend whether generic communications, orders, or other regulatory actions are needed.

b. Recommendations for the content, structure, and estimated resource impact for the longer-term review.

Coordination and Communications

The near-term task force will:

- Solicit stakeholder input as appropriate, but remain independent of industry efforts.
- Coordinate and cooperate where applicable with other domestic and international efforts reviewing the events in Japan for additional insights.
- Provide recommendations to the Commission for any immediate policy issues identified prior to completion of the near-term review.
- Provide recommendations to program offices for any immediate actions not involving policy issues, prior to completion of the near-term review.
- Identify resource implications of near-term actions.
- Consider information gained from Temporary Instruction 2515/183, "Followup to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Events."
- Develop a communications plan.
- Update and brief internal stakeholders, as appropriate.

Expected Product and Schedule

The task force will provide its observations, conclusions, and recommendations in the form of a written report to the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs at the completion of the 90-day near-term review.

During the development of its report, the task force will brief the Commission on the status of the review at approximately the 30- and 60-day points.

The report will be transmitted to the Commission via a SECY paper, and the task force will brief the Commission on the results of the near-term effort at approximately the 90-day point. The report will be released to the public via normal Commission processes.

The task force will recommend a framework for a longer-term review as a part of the near-term report. The longer-term review will begin as soon as the NRC has sufficient technical information from the events in Japan (with a goal of beginning by the end of the near-term review).

Staffing

The task force will consist of the following members:

Leader	Charles Miller	FSME
Senior Managers	Daniel Dorman	NMSS
	Jack Grobe	NRR
	Gary Holahan	NRO
	Amy Cabbage	NRO
Senior Staff	Nathan Sanfilippo	OEDO
	Cynthia Davidson	OGC
Administrative Assistant		

Additional task force members will be added as needed. For the near-term review, other staff members may be consulted on a part-time basis.

EDO Interface

The task force will keep agency leadership informed on the status of the effort and provide early identification of significant findings. The task force will report to Martin J. Virgilio, Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs.

To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

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~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

1 FIRE SAFETY – The chairman did two interviews today on the topic of fire safety, one with an editor at Propublica and the other with a 'reporter' for the online "Center for Public Integrity. The former interview focused almost exclusively on enforcement discretion for plants making the transition to NFPA 805, and the latter on NFPA 805 itself. One point the chairman made repeatedly and strongly is that if a violation is found, a plant must take steps to ensure fix the deficiency with compensatory measures until a longer-term solution is in place. We're not sure who is going to go to press (ok, post to a website) first, but the race is on.

2: NRC AND THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY – Propublica, the investigative journalism website that has followed fire issues for 3 years, today is generating a quick and dirty story rolling up the usual criticisms of the agency being too close to industry. It's nothing we haven't heard before. Rather than respond to a litany of complaints from the usual corners, OPA is providing a generic statement about the NRC being committed to the mission of protecting people and the environment, and if we're getting shot at from many quarters we must be doing something right.

3: END OF CYCLE MEETINGS -- ST.LUCIE – About 35 people, many of whom are passionate foes of nuclear power, attended the St. Lucie End Of Cycle meeting Wednesday. At one point, demonstrators spread a large anti-nuclear banner in front of the presenters before being asked to move aside. Media covering the meeting included three West Palm Beach television stations, the local NPR affiliate, The Palm Beach Post and the Ft. Pierce News-Tribune (representing several local Scripps-Howard papers).

Expect coverage from tonight's meeting at LaSalle, and Peach Bottom as well.

4: FERMI – OPA responded to an inquiry from the Monroe Evening News regarding a Severity Level IV violation issued in Feb. for providing the NRC with inadequate calculations used to demonstrate the ISFSI pad was appropriately designed. The licensee's calculations failed to account for different configurations of casks on the pad. The reporter asked about the status of the issue. We said the company provided the NRC with updated calculations that demonstrated the pad was adequately designed to handle full cask loads and severe seismic conditions. The NRC considers the issue resolved.

5: PILGRIM – The Cape Cod (Mass.) Times is working on a story about Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs). The reporter hit us with many of the same questions we've been receiving recently, including the logic behind a 10-mile-radius EPZ and whether we might consider enlarging in light of what's happened in Japan.

6: MILLSTONE – A reporter for Newsday (on Long Island, N.Y.) is writing about concerns expressed by some local officials on Long Island regarding the Millstone nuclear power plant in Connecticut. Specifically, the officials are worried about how evacuations might be carried out if a severe accident occurs at the plant. The reporter was filled in on emergency preparedness, EPZs and the NRC's reviews in response to the Japanese reactor events.

7: WIKILEAKS – Reuters contacted OPA regarding an article based on diplomatic cables in Wikileaks – the implication being that the NRC plays "industry booster" during trade missions. OPA provided the agency's stock Wikileaks response.

8: EMERGENCY PLANNING/PUBLIC PRAISE – An editor with Scientific American, in the course of ongoing interactions with OPA, mentioned giving a live interview on WTOP in D.C., where the editor noted the NRC

BV/1139

was "prescient in calling for a wider evacuation zone for Americans" in Japan following Fukushima. OPA is also working with the editor to provide agency comment on existing U.S. EPZs and how they relate to the 50-mile Fukushima recommendation.

9: NEW REACTORS – OPA spoke to Colorado Public Radio as the outlet prepares an article about possible new reactor activity near Pueblo. The discussion focused on the basic procedure for filing a new reactor application, including how the NRC would expect to interact with a prospective applicant months prior to anything being filed. Basic facts and figures on new reactor applications were also discussed

10: SPENT FUEL – Technology Review is apparently near to publishing its article on spent fuel; the reporter forwarded a map they have developed showing approximate locations of ISFSIs, for fact checking. Separately, a writer for McGraw-Hill's Engineering News Record inquired about construction standards for spent fuel pools and their buildings.

11: TASK FORCE REVIEW – Providence Journal and Business Insurance had several questions regarding the scope of the Task Force review, trying to gauge the "regulatory fallout" of Fukushima.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES – OPA continues to receive several public inquiries a day concerning radiation from Japan detected in the United States. Today's included a car parts manufacturer/distributor who purchases parts manufactured in Japan and was curious about what level of radiation in Japanese manufactures may be considered "safe." She was concerned about developing a statement to reassure her customers. We referred her to Customs and Border Protection, which has the lead for screening imports.

RHODE ISLAND RESEARCH REACTOR -- nd research reactor – a Region I PAO did a recorded interview with WRNI-FM (Rhode Island public radio) on the oversight of the research and test reactor in Rhode Island. The reporter is looking for financial and security information, which was not provided.

LIMERICK – A California radio station had questions about measure uncertainty uprates. The press release on the Limerick uprate sparked the interest.

Press releases and speeches posted

From: E&E Publishing, LLC <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: April 5 -- Greenwire is ready



AN E&E PUBLISHING SERVICE

GREENWIRE -- TUE., APRIL 5, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **BUDGET:** House GOP blueprint promises overhaul of energy, environmental goals

House Republicans rolled out a 2012 budget today that aims to vastly reshape federal policy on a number of fronts, cutting energy research, agriculture subsidies and the government workforce while lifting current "moratoriums and bans" on domestic fossil-fuel exploration. The budget blueprint released by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) marks a raising of the stakes for a 2011 spending battle that continues to leave the capital braced for a potential Friday shutdown. But even as Ryan's plan generates national attention for its approach to entitlements and corporate taxes, his budget also promises to be a potent vehicle for advancing domestic production and regulatory easing proposals that Republicans have dubbed the "American Energy Initiative."

TOP STORIES

2. **BUDGET:** Union sues OMB to force release of shutdown plans
3. **CLIMATE:** 'Shrillness' of greens contributed to failure in Washington -- EDF chief
4. **AUTOS:** Obama's push for clean federal fleet could spur U.S. green-car market

CONGRESS

5. **CLIMATE:** Connolly finds way to protest Upton bill
6. **ENERGY POLICY:** Murkowski gloomy about prospects for CES passage
7. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** House Dems float royalty-reform bill
8. **PUBLIC LANDS:** Abbey defends proposed fees on oil and gas production

POLITICS

9. **OIL AND GAS:** API grabs Hill veteran as newest lobbyist

CLIMATE CHANGE

10. **CLIMATE:** Japan says it won't seek Kyoto Protocol exemption

ENERGY

11. **NUCLEAR:** Utility shuts troubled Fla. plant for inspections
12. **COAL:** Groups sue to reform Powder River Basin leasing
13. **MINING:** Upper Big Branch survivors wait for answers
14. **GULF SPILL:** Emails show strain within BP management leading up to disaster
15. **GULF SPILL:** Blowout preventer investigator defends findings

FEDERAL AGENCIES

16. **EPA:** Cleanup efforts are good for economy, Jackson says

BUSINESS

17. **GULF SPILL:** Transocean apologizes for 'insensitive' safety claims
18. **UTILITIES:** Duke and Progress file merger request

AIR AND WATER

19. **OZONE:** Record loss over Arctic this year

NATURAL RESOURCES

20. **FISHERIES:** Japan sets radiation standards for seafood

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

21. **LEAD:** Baltimore can't pay poisoning judgments, mayor says

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 5:41 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

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~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

1: WATTS BAR – Commissioner Ostendorff and Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., toured Watts Bar today and after the tour met with media representatives, including three Chattanooga TV stations, three from Knoxville, the Knoxville News-Sentinel, the Chattanooga Times-Free Press, several smaller newspapers and one local radio station. The senator said he was impressed with the facility and the Commissioner talked briefly about the agency's review stemming from the Japanese event. We can expect extensive media coverage. Coverage is below and a picture will be up on the website tomorrow.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., visited the NRC today, talked with the Chairman and EDO leaders about the agency's safety programs, toured the operations center and thanked staffers for their work on the Japan crisis and the work the agency does day-in-and-day-out to oversee domestic reactor safety. We put a picture up on the web site. There was no press at this event.

<http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14467965>

<http://timesfreepress.com/news/2011/apr/18/alexander-visits-tennessee-nuclear-plant-says-us-p/>

2; VERMONT YANKEE – Entergy filed suit in federal court today challenging Vermont's claim it has the ability to shut the plant down. Here's a link to what will be but one of many stories. We're telling callers (DowJones was the first) that this is between the company and the state.

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/greenblog/2011/04/vermont_yankee_nuclear_plant_o.html

3: GLOBAL REACTOR OVERVIEW – The ThompsonReuters news agency over the weekend filed a massive package of stories looking at the global outlook for nuclear. Included was a piece on some Wikileaks cables (on which we do not comment) in which U.S. Embassy employees appear to be advancing the cause of U.S. firms. The NRC was quoted as saying that our role is to advance the cause of safety and sound regulation. The full package of stories, all 10 pages, is at this link provided courtesy of Reuters:

<http://link.reuters.com/dap98r>

Inside NRC got all spun up about the piece regarding our international program, wrongly saying the initial story said we were promoting nuclear vendors overseas. We told the reporter (Dolley) to read it again to see if the words "our role is only safety and only regulation" jumped off the page.

4: INDIAN POINT – Bloomberg is working on a story on emergency planning. The reporter needed an explanation on the roles of FEMA and NRC.

5: SURRY – Numerous media outlets contacted Region II for updates on Surry, where a tornado touched down in the switchyard Saturday and triggered a double unit scram. The site lost offsite power, but all diesels performed as expected. One power source was restored by midnight, and the licensee continued to work today towards connecting a second offsite power source. Media calls came from CNN, BBC News in Washington, Reuters, USA Today, The Daily Press of Newport News, The Times Dispatch of Richmond, Virginia Business News and WBEC-TV of Norfolk and WAVY-TV of Portsmouth.

BU/1141

6: NAS MEETING IN CHICAGO – The NAS held a public meeting revolving around the study being done for the NRC on potential cancer risks near nuclear plants. Front and center was the Sauer family, who lived near Dresden and whose daughter tragically had brain cancer. They have been vocal about their perceived connection between the plant and their child's cancer. OPA talked at length about associated issues with a reporter for Agence France Presse, and talked as well to the Voice of America. OPA told the reporters the study is to re-examine the impact of plants as part of our mission to protect public health and safety.

7: ABOUT NRC --- An Associated Press reporter based in Los Angeles asked initial background questions about the NRC. He is writing an article that compares Japan's nuclear regulatory authority organization with the U.S. OPA provide information and helped reporter navigate information on the web design. His questions included: What restrictions are placed by the agency beyond the broader federal policy on NRC employees who leave for private sector work in the nuclear industry; what is the schedule of fines that the NRC can levy on the institutions it regulates, and what federal agency promotes nuclear power.

8: ASSORTED NRC QUESTIONS – Continue from the New York Times, which interviewed the chairman last week for a piece that seems somewhat all over the waterfront. Today's mole to whack-a was an IG memo on the ROP, specifically about the handling of a feedwater issue at Byron dating back to 2008. We provided chapter, verse, and a refrain or two about NRC actions to change the ROP subsequent to this issue arising, not to mention the enforcement actions we took against Byron.

Press releases and speeches posted

A release on the new website, annual meeting notices on Clinton, Beaver Valley and Global Nuclear Fuels, as well as the Sunday morning release that we are monitoring the unusual event and recovery of the Surry Plant from tornado damage.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 5:17 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

~~Internal use only -- no distribution outside NRC -- no redistribution --~~
~~May include material proprietary to news agencies~~

1: SUMMER -- Reporter/Producer Roger Batson of NTV International (Nippon Television) called Region II to ask about a visit to the Summer plant near Columbia, S.C. later this week as part of a planned documentary for Japanese consumption featuring the Savannah River Plant near Aiken and the assistance that facility is providing Japan at the Fukushima site. He said his crew planned to be in South Carolina for a few days and wanted to record activity at a U.S. site in preliminary stages of construction as a part of a bigger story from Savannah River on DOE aid to Japan. RII directed him to the NRC web site on new reactors, gave him the name and telephone number of a contact at SCE&G, and is sending him a copy of the NRC 2010-2011 Information Digest.

2: SURRY -- The Virginia Radio News Network called RII to get an update on Surry, which ended its Unusual Event early Tuesday. The NRC exited Monitoring Mode at Surry, where a tornado touched down in the switchyard Saturday. OPA did a recorded interview with the network.

3: VOGTLE -- The NRC holds its annual assessment meeting tonight for Vogtle in Waynesboro, GA. The Toyko Broadcasting Company and local media are expected to cover the meeting.

4: OCONEE -- Region II is hosting the annual assessment meeting for the Oconee plant this evening at the site visitors center. It is unclear how much public interest there may be, but we expect media coverage from several local newspapers and at least one TV and one radio station.

5: INDIAN POINT -- a phone call was held yesterday afternoon to allow a petitioner to provide the agency with more information on a petition that asks the agency to lower the licensing basis peak cladding temperature of Indian Point in order to provide necessary margin of safety in event of loss-of-coolant accident. The petitioner had also filed a similar petition on VY (which was rejected because there's a rulemaking under review) and a petition for rulemaking on the issue. Matt Wald of the NY Times listened in.

In addition, Fox News is working on a story about the controversies surrounding Indian Point... and the move to have its license renewal review expanded to include emergency preparedness and seismic issues. The reporter will be shooting at the site tomorrow.

6: OYSTER CREEK -- The NJ Environmental Federation filed its response to the NRC's response to the Third Circuit Court's request to the question "what impact, if any, the damages from the earthquake and tsunami at Japan have on the propriety of granting the license renewal application" for Oyster Creek. WNYC in New York is following up on the issue, as is NJNewsroom.com.

7: VERMONT YANKEE -- CNN was the latest to call for NRC's response to Entergy's decision to sue the State of Vermont on pre-emption issues.

8: BEYOND NUCLEAR PETITION -- The group issued a press release today on their 2.206 petition calling for immediate shutdown of all Mark I BWRs, using the group's usual litany of complaints. OPA responded to a press query by going over the 2.206 review process (including a relatively rapid turnaround for an answer on immediate action requests), as well as reiterating existing talking points on BWR Mark I improvements.

BU/1142

9: PART 37: A Reuters reporter who is new to the NRC beat attended this morning's Commission briefing on the Part 37 rulemaking on physical protection of sources. OPA talked her through the rulemaking process, explained Agreement States, and filled in some history of the rulemaking. She indicated she was there "for learning purposes," and said the subject was probably not yet ripe for her to report on, preferring to wait until the final rule is approved. A reporter for Medill also inquired about the briefing, looking for materials about the materials rulemaking.

10: DIABLO CANYON - A Platts reporter asked about the status of the review of the license renewal schedule for Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California. OPA responded that the NRC is still evaluating and when they decide if there will be a change a letter will be sent to the licensee. In the meantime staff continues to review and the next milestone is the issuance of final Safety Evaluation Report in May.

Press releases and speeches posted

NRC, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ISSUE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
NEW REACTORS AT VIRGIL C. SUMMER SITE

Comments by the chairman opening today's commission meeting

From: The Energy Collective <info=socialmediatoday.com@mcsv8.net> on behalf of The Energy Collective <info@socialmediatoday.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 8:36 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Energy Innovation at Work: Thin-Film Solar

Received from The Energy Collective on April 14, 2011




Most read on The Energy Collective

- » [Fukushima Nuclear Crisis News Update For April 9, 2011](#)
- » [Fukushima Rated At INES Level 7 – What Does This Mean?](#)
- » [FEPC Fukushima Reactor Status Update For April 8, 2011](#)
- » [How They Came Up With That Fukushima Level 7 Rating](#)
- » [Avoiding Nuclear Safety](#)

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Editor's Choices

Change in Thinking – A Critical Innovation for Energy Security

 By Christine Hertzog - Business as usual won't work to address the severe challenges facing every country in the world struggling to deliver reliable, clean and secure fuel sources and electricity to their citizens. For instance, integration of clean domestic renewables into the grid provides energy security and helps build local economies... » [Continue...](#)

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FROM OUR SPONSORS

Siemens Receives Order for High-Voltage Gas-Insulated Substation to Increase Electric System

Delivered by the State of New Jersey



Siemens has been awarded a contract by New Jersey-based Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), one of the largest electric utilities in the U.S., for the design, engineering, manufacturing, installation, testing and commissioning of an indoor 230kV, 4000A, 80kA gas-insulated substation (GIS) and associated gas-insulated bus (GIB). The GIS is an expansion of the existing Bergen switching station located in Ridgefield, New Jersey. » [Continue...](#)

Fukushima Rated At INES Level 7 – What Does This Mean?



By Barry Brook - The International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) was developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to rate nuclear accidents. Prior to today, only Chernobyl had been rated at the maximum level of the scale 'major accident'. » [Continue...](#)

Lessons From the Field: Jeff Sachs Tells Universities To Take Leadership on Climate Change




By Christopher Williams - Last week, I had the fortune to listen to hear American economist Jeffrey Sachs discuss the topic "Hurrying History: Can the World Adopt a Fast Path to Low Carbon Energy?" as part of the Harvard Center for the Environment The Future of Energy series... » [Continue...](#)

FROM THE ENERGY COLLECTIVE


How a Smart Grid Can Improve Efficiency - If Consumers Play Along



Live Webcast May 3, 1 PM ET / 10 AM PT - What will motivate consumers to adopt Smart Grid technology and use power more efficiently? What are the challenges to adoption? Join The Energy Collective to explore key challenges and opportunities for Demand Response solutions. » [Continue...](#)

 By *Helmuth Ziegler* - After 5 years of practical experience the time has come for Imtech, one of the leading German companies for technical building equipment, to offer a promising procedure for the treatment of residual household waste to the international market. » [Continue...](#)

Public Sector Clean Energy Innovation at Work: Thin-Film Solar

 By *Matthew Stepp* - This week, the U.S. clean energy sector received a welcomed boost towards making advanced clean technology a commercial reality. General Electric (GE) announced that it plans to build the largest solar manufacturing facility in the United States to produce cheap, efficient thin-film solar panels. » [Continue...](#)

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EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:35 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Tuesday,
April 12, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Obama avoids deep cuts to energy, environment in 2011 budget
Jaczko expects nuclear review to spur regulatory changes
Japan raises severity of nuclear accident to Chernobyl's level
California embarks on ambitious new renewable energy plan
Senate explores gas drilling as studies question climate benefits
Bipartisan group aims to break energy policy gridlock
Feinstein seeks new rules for spent nuclear fuel storage
Markowski urges small steps on energy policy
IEA warns oil supplies to tighten further
California nuclear plant to delay re-licensing until new quake studies
Canadian pipeline to Texas faces increasing hurdles
Economists struggle to identify fallout from high gas prices
Hundreds of New Yorkers rally against fracking
Pennsylvania job czar a longtime critic of environmental regulations
NYT columnist urges passage of Pickens Plan
Popular penguins face increased pressure from global warming
Italy launches world's first commercial cellulosic ethanol plant

Obama avoids deep cuts to energy, environment in 2011 budget

By Edward Felker

The tentative 2011 budget pact imposes reductions in nearly all government programs but largely shields President Barack Obama's environmental and renewable energy agenda from deeper cuts sought by House Republicans, according to details released late Monday.

The spending bill coming out of the agreement to avoid a government shutdown would cut \$78.5 billion from Obama's 2011 proposed budget and \$38.5 billion from 2010 spending levels. It is expected to be passed before the current one-week spending law runs out Friday.

As part of the deal, Obama agreed to cancel the Interior Department's "wild lands" proposal, which would have put new Bureau of Land Management areas into effective wilderness status. Western lawmakers have contended the plan would skirt congressional authority in approving new wilderness areas.

Obama also accepted the de-listing of the gray wolf from Endangered Species Act protections in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Utah. That provision was sought by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont. and Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee's Interior subcommittee.

In a largely symbolic move, the bill also cancels funding for the White House advisory positions, known as "czars," in the areas of climate change, health care, the auto industry and urban affairs, whom Republicans accused of holding cabinet-level authority outside of congressional oversight.

The provision is a slap at Carol Browner, the lead White House advocate for the failed cap-and-trade plan, who served as the director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy.

But in return, Obama was able to avoid limitations on the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas regulations, a key goal of House and Senate Republican. He also preserved the bulk of his energy proposals.

The Interior Department will get \$416 million for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, or about two-thirds of the spending Obama sought for expanded inspections and oversight off offshore drilling.

The bill also makes no cuts to the Energy Department's loan guarantee programs, as Republicans had proposed. It also preserves \$180 million in spending on the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, or ARPA-E technology innovation program, some \$130 million more than Republicans

proposed.

The department will see actual cuts to energy efficiency and renewable energy programs limited to just \$116 million below current spending, helped by the cancellation of \$292 million in "earmark" projects previously won by members of Congress.

Overall, EPA's spending was set at about \$8.3 billion, a cut of about \$1.5 billion over current spending but nearly \$1.6 billion more than Republicans wanted.

One agency that saw no cuts from Obama's 2011 budget was the politically popular Army Corps of Engineers, which got the full \$4.9 billion he proposed.

Jaczkowski expects nuclear review to spur regulatory changes

By John Solomon

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczkowski says he expects a methodical review of U.S. nuclear plant security to result in significant regulatory changes.

Jaczkowski told The Associated Press in a wide-ranging interview on Monday that there is a sense of urgency in conducting a 90-day review of all U.S. reactors but that he wants the effort to also be "systemic and methodical."

The NRC wants to make "sure we identify all the important issues, and that we work with a sense of urgency and speed to address those issues in the appropriate way," he said.

"Fundamentally, I expect that there will be some things we will want to change and need to change as a result of what comes out of this 90-day review and longer-term review, based on events in Japan."

The top U.S. nuclear regulator, who visited Japan last month during its nuclear crisis, also said he won't change a recommendation that U.S. citizens stay at least 50 miles away from Japan's crippled nuclear power plant.

Jaczkowski said conditions at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant have not changed significantly for several days but could take weeks or months to stabilize. "We describe the situation as static but not yet stable," Jaczkowski said.

Jaczkowski said the most important job at the plant still is keeping water in the spent fuel pools to cool the highly radioactive fuel rods, reducing the threat of a meltdown and a catastrophic release of radiation.

Japan raises severity of nuclear accident to Chernobyl's level

By The Associated Press

Japan raised the crisis level at its crippled nuclear plant Tuesday to a severity on par with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, citing high overall radiation leaks that have contaminated the air, tap water, vegetables and seawater.

Japanese nuclear regulators said they raised the rating from 5 to 7 — the highest level on an international scale of nuclear accidents overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency — after new assessments of radiation leaks from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant since it was disabled by the March 11 tsunami.

The new ranking signifies a “major accident” that includes widespread effects on the environment and health, according to the Vienna-based IAEA. But Japanese officials played down any health effects and stressed that the harm caused by Chernobyl still far outweighs that caused by the Fukushima plant.

The revision came a day after the government added five communities to a list of places people should leave to avoid long-term radiation exposure. A 12-mile (20-kilometer) radius already had been cleared around the plant.

The news was received with chagrin by residents in Iitate, one of the five communities, where high levels of radiation have been detected in the soil. The village of 6,200 people is about 40 kilometers from the Fukushima plant.

“It’s very shocking to me,” said Miyuki Ichisawa, 52, who runs a coffee shop in Iitate. “Now the government is officially telling us this accident is at the same level of Chernobyl.”

Japanese officials said the leaks from the Fukushima plant so far amount to a tenth of the radiation emitted in the Chernobyl disaster, but said they eventually could exceed Chernobyl’s emissions if the crisis continues.

“This reconfirms that this is an extremely major disaster. We are very sorry to the public, people living near the nuclear complex and the international community for causing such a serious accident,” said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

But Edano told reporters there was no “direct health damage” so far from the crisis. “The accident itself is really serious, but we have set our priority so as not to cause health damage.”

California embarks on ambitious new renewable energy plan

By Adam Weintraub

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown plans to sign legislation that would require California utilities to get one-third of their power from renewable sources, giving the state the most aggressive alternative energy mandate in the U.S.

Under the bill, California utilities and other power providers would have until the end of 2020 to draw 33 percent of their power from solar panels, windmills, landfill gases, small hydroelectric plants and other renewable sources.

Supporters said the increase from the current 20 percent target will reassure investors that demand for renewable energy will grow, fueling a field that has been one of the few growth spots for California's economy during the recession.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu was expected to attend the bill signing ceremony Tuesday at the SunPower-Flextronics solar manufacturing plant in the San Francisco Bay area city of Milpitas.

"Instead of watching from the sidelines, America needs to get back in the clean energy race, and that's exactly what California is doing," said Stephanie Mueller, spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Critics of the legislation said sticking with traditional energy sources such as coal and natural gas would be cheaper, keeping costs down for business and residential ratepayers. Business groups point to estimates that the higher standard could drive up electricity costs for California ratepayers by more than 7 percent, despite language in the legislation to limit cost increases.

"Industry in California already pays electricity rates about 50 percent higher than the rest of the country," said Gino DiCaro, spokesman for the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. "With 33 percent, those rates are going to go up even more."

Brown said Monday he would look carefully at whether the new standard will drive up electricity costs but said increasing use of renewable sources makes sense for California and the country.

"I know one thing: Being dependent on foreign fossil fuel is not good for our economy, it's not good for our security, and it's not good for our climate," the Democratic governor told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "We have to be bold."

Senate explores gas drilling as studies question climate benefits

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee holds a hearing Tuesday into the environmental and health effects of natural gas drilling amidst new

studies questioning whether gas is as climate-friendly as portrayed, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Bipartisan group aims to break energy policy gridlock

A bipartisan group that features former national security adviser Jim Jones, former Senate Leader Trent Lott, retired Sen. Byron Dorgan, and former EPA chief William K. Reilly is launching an effort to break the gridlock over energy policy in Washington, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Feinstein seeks new rules for spent nuclear fuel storage

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who chairs an Appropriations subcommittee on energy, is urging Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko to impose new storage regulations on spent nuclear fuel, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Murkowski urges small steps on energy policy

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thinks Congress will have more success taking small steps toward a new energy policy legislation while maintaining pressure to respond to last year's Gulf of Mexico spill, Politico reports.

[Read more](#)

IEA warns oil supplies to tighten further

The International Energy Agency warned Tuesday that the oil market is likely to tighten further this year, with oil inventories shrinking as supply disruptions and political tensions in the Middle East and North Africa look set to persist for months, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

California nuclear plant to delay re-licensing until new quake studies

The owner of California's Diablo Canyon nuclear-power plant won't seek license renewals for its two reactors until new studies of the area's vulnerability to earthquakes can be conducted, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Canadian pipeline to Texas faces increasing hurdles

A plan to build a pipeline from oil sands fields in Alberta to the Gulf Coast is facing growing obstacles ranging from new Canadian environmental regulation to U.S fears about pipeline corrosion, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Economists struggle to identify fallout from high gas prices

Economists are still struggling to determine the longer-term economic impact of rising gas prices, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Hundreds of New Yorkers rally against fracking

Hundreds of New York residents descended on Albany on Monday to urge lawmakers to reject horizontal hydrofracking, in which wells deliver a high-pressure mix of water, chemicals and sand to free natural gas trapped in shale formations deep underground, The Albany Times-Union reports.

[Read more](#)

Pennsylvania job czar a longtime critic of environmental

regulations

C. Alan Walker, Pennsylvania's new jobs czar, for years has clashed with environmental officials and derided regulators as "vindictive," "out of control" and "the most dangerous thing" affecting the country's welfare, ProPublica reports.

[Read more](#)

NYT columnist urges passage of Pickens Plan

New York Times columnist Joe Nocera on Tuesday urged Congress to pass bipartisan legislation fashioned after T. Boone Pickens' plan to convert vehicles to natural gas.

[Read more](#)

Popular penguins face increased pressure from global warming

Two of the most well-known penguin species in Antarctica are under pressure because a warmer climate has cut deeply into their main food source, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Italy launches world's first commercial cellulosic ethanol plant

Italy broke ground Tuesday on the world's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 12, Washington: New Republic forum, "Energy Policy: Powering the

Economic Recovery." Speakers include CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley, DOE Deputy Dan Poneman, Sens. Bingaman, Kerry, others. 7:45 am, National Press Club.

- Apr. 12, Washington: Bipartisan Policy Center announces new energy project, led by former Sen. Byron Dorgan, former Sen. Trent Lott and William K. Reilly, at forum on energy security. Author Daniel Yergin to moderate. 9:30 am, 1225 I St. N.W., Suite 1000
- Apr. 12, Washington: US Energy Association briefing on Cape Wind offshore wind farm project. Cape Wind communications director Mark Rodgers to speak. 10:00 am, USEA, 1300 Penn. Ave. N.W., Reagan Building North Tower
- Apr. 12, Washington: Senate Environment and Public Works hearing, "Natural Gas Drilling: Public Health and Environmental Impacts." EPA Deputy Admin. Perciasepe to testify. 10:00 am, Dirksen 406.
- Apr. 12, Washington: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds drafting session on nomination of Peter B. Lyons to the Energy Department, pending bills. 10:00 am, Dirksen 366.
- Apr. 12, Washington: Senate Commerce Committee votes on S. 275 Pipeline Transportation Safety Improvement Act, with other bills. 2:30 pm, Russell 253.
- Apr. 12, Washington: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing, "Review of the Nuclear Emergency in Japan and Implications for the U.S." NRC Chairman Jaczko, EPA Administrator Jackson to testify. 2:45 pm, Dirksen 406.

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From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 6:25 PM
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Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Tuesday, April 12, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Budget deal puts brakes on 'wild lands' policy, for now

EPA formally exempts milk from oil spill rules

Energy Department backs California solar projects

White House, GOP predict approval for cuts

Gas drilling's promise, perils rile townfolk

BOEMRE among few agencies to see budget boost

Salazar accuses GOP of oil spill 'amnesia'

California sets 33 percent renewable electricity goal

Japan's nuclear crisis ebbing, prime minister says

Dudley to face tough questions from shareholders

Oil prices fall as demand predictions scaled back

Koch plans to expand pipeline in Texas

Natural gas price hikes rile Iran

Daybook: Upcoming events

Budget deal puts brakes on 'wild lands' policy, for now

By Edward Felker

The 2011 budget deal ends, for now, the Obama administration's new "wild lands" policy, one that stirred up strong opposition from western Republican lawmakers.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar put the policy in place by secretarial order last December. He issued the order on the basis that a 2008 court decision required the department to set a clear policy for the management of federal lands with wilderness characteristics.

But Republicans, who called the policy an end-run around Congress and its authority to approve new federal wilderness areas, hailed the pending budget bill for blocking the order.

The bill, known as a continuing resolution, cuts \$38 billion from current spending levels. It is expected to pass the the House and Senate as soon as Thursday, in time to head meet a Friday deadline to keep the government funded through September.

"Since the time it was announced, elected officials throughout the west recognized it was essential that this proposal be halted in its tracks. With the passage of this CR, we do just that," Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said. He chairs the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

Bishop won inclusion of the ban in the first 2011 budget bill passed by the House in February and saw it preserved in the final deal reached last Friday night. It was among only a few environmental policy provisions sought by Republicans to survive negotiations with Senate Democrats and the White House.

A spokeswoman for the Interior Department declined comment on the provision or steps the department might take in reaction. At a hearing last month, Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey said the policy restored "balance" to federal land policies that he and Salazar contended was missing since a land management settlement agreement between Interior Secretary Gale Norton and the state of Utah.

The policy had been under attack since Republicans took over the House in January. At a hearing before the full committee last month, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings, R-Wash., said up to 220 million acres in the west were under threat of having commercial uses restricted and criticized Salazar for ordering the policy without consulting Congress.

"The administration should be on notice that unilateral decisions and orders to impose restrictive, job-destroying policies will be met with firm resistance," he warned.

Bishop's spokeswoman said that because the prohibition is effective only through the end of the fiscal year, he will look for an opportunity to add it to the

2012 budget.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo. who derided the policy as a "Christmas surprise," referring to its announcement on Dec. 23, said he will also support efforts to extend the ban. "I'm going to continue to fight it," he said.

One backer of the policy, Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., said he had yet to hear about the implications of the budget ban, but reiterated his support for the policy compared to the deal struck by Norton.

"My support for the wild lands policy was based on the fact that it was returning us to a policy that I thought worked well for many years until Secretary Norton crafted her arrangement with the state of Utah," he said.

EPA formally exempts milk from oil spill rules

By Edward Felker

The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday said it had formalized its plan to remove milk and milk containers from its inland waterways oil spill rule.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson had previously assured Congress that it would exempt dairy producers from the rule, which it said had the unintended consequence of covering milk containers.

EPA touted the exemption as an action taken under President Barack Obama's recently-announced plan to rescind unnecessary regulations.

In a statement, Jackson responded to criticism of the rule from the farm community and lawmakers, particularly congressional Republicans.

"Despite the myths that have arisen about EPA's intentions, our efforts have been solely focused on exempting milk and milk products from this regulation, and that exemption is now permanent," she said.

EPA said the exemption applies to milk, milk product containers, and milk production equipment, and the agency will amend the rules to cover facilities that also have oil storage on site. It will also remove a compliance deadline for milk containers.

Energy Department backs California solar projects

By Adam Weintraub

Federal energy officials are putting financial support behind two huge solar energy projects in California that could create hundreds of jobs and power 145,000 homes.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu on Tuesday announced a conditional offer of \$1.2 billion in loan guarantees for the California Valley Solar Ranch project on the state's Central Coast. The project would use new technology to follow the sun, increasing efficiency.

Chu announced the move at a new factory near San Jose for SunPower Corp., which would sponsor the project. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. would purchase the power.

The project is expected to create 350 construction jobs and power 60,000 homes.

On Monday, Chu announced a \$1.6 billion guarantee for a BrightSource Inc. solar plant in the Mojave Desert that could create 1,000 jobs and power 85,000 homes.

White House, GOP predict approval for cuts

By David Espo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite scattered opposition from both ends of the political spectrum, House Republicans and the White House both predicted approval Tuesday for the hard-bargained \$38 billion package of spending cuts that narrowly avoided a government shutdown.

House Democratic leaders remained non-committal on the legislation, sealed late last week in negotiations that excluded them.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, touted the plan somewhat cautiously, saying it was "far from perfect and we need to do much more if we're serious about creating new jobs."

In a posting on his website, Boehner said the measure calls for the largest non-military spending cut in history and would set the stage for a companion vote later in the week on a Republican budget to reduce federal deficits by trillions of dollars over the next decade.

The spending bill covering the rest of fiscal year through Sept. 30 is ticketed for a vote in the House on Thursday, with the Senate to follow either later in the day or on Friday.

The product of days of brinksmanship, the compromise gave the White House, House Republicans and Senate Democrats enough to claim victory yet left critics every opportunity to find fault.

Overall the \$38 billion in cuts are less than the \$61 billion contained in legislation the House passed in February. Senate Democrats and the White

House initially advocated no reduction from current levels.

The legislation includes cuts for the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institutes of Health, community health centers and the Community Development Block Grant, favored by mayors and other local officials.

Yet the administration and Senate Democrats succeeded in blunting Republican demands for even deeper reductions in those programs and elimination of others. The deal protects some of President Barack Obama's top priorities, leaving Head Start untouched, for example, while maintaining the maximum Pell education grant of \$5,550.

Included in the bill is a voucher program that lets poor children in the District of Columbia use government funds to attend private schools. Republicans also won agreement to ban the capital city from using its own funds to pay for abortions for poor women.

But they gave up their attempt to block EPA rules on greenhouse gases and other emissions, and were unsuccessful in seeking changes to a federal program that supports family planning.

Two prominent conservatives, Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, and Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., both said they would vote against the legislation.

"I believe voters are asking us to set our sights higher," said Jordan, who chairs an organization of House conservatives. He said the group, the Republican Study Committee, had called earlier this year for \$100 billion in cuts, a total that far exceeds the amount in the legislation.

Bachmann, a potential presidential candidate, said on a campaign-style trip to the first caucus state of the 2012 campaign that she was "very disappointed with the bill that came through. And that's an understatement."

In an appearance at a high school in Pella, Iowa, she said, "Voters expected us to defund Obama-care," a reference to the health care law that passed a year ago.

Republicans sought to include provisions that would have effectively voided the year-old health care law, but they were blocked during the negotiations by Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

In addition to the conservative criticism, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., one of the most liberal members of the Senate, said the cuts in the measure amount to "Robin Hood in reverse. It takes from struggling working families and gives to multimillionaires. This is obscene."

Sanders, who is seeking re-election next year, pointed to a reduction in the federal program that helps lower-income families pay their heating bills, and said Pell Grants for college students and the Women, Infant and Children

nutrition program would be cut, as well.

Despite the criticism, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., predicted the legislation would pass and said "from every indication I have" support will be strong among the GOP rank and file.

At the White House, spokesman Jay Carney professed no concern about the bill's prospects. "The deal as I understand it is moving through Congress and will be signed by the president," he said.

Gas drilling's promise, perils rile townsfolk

By Michael Rubinkam and Ramit Plushnick-Masti

Ron Hilliard came back from church one Sunday to find hundreds of plastic \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100 bills hanging on his fence in Flower Mound, Texas, another message from townsfolk angry at him for signing a lucrative natural gas drilling lease for his suburban Dallas property.

In Damascus, Pa., about 1,500 miles away, drilling advocate Marian Schweighofer awoke one morning to the word "LORAX" — from the Dr. Seuss book about environmental destruction — spray-painted on the road near her family's 712-acre farm.

Hilliard and Schweighofer have never met, yet both are living with the nastiness and rancor erupting in communities nationwide over the volatile issue of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

This technique — used with horizontal drilling — allows rich stores of gas to be extracted from once out-of-reach, dense shale formations more than a mile underground. Intense drilling activity is under way in the Barnett Shale of Texas, the Marcellus Shale of Pennsylvania, and other producing shale regions around the country. As tens of thousands of Americans become energy magnates in their own backyards, tens of thousands more worry about environmental dangers. The industry insists the process is safe, for people and the environment.

This energy boom has turned neighbor against neighbor, split towns and families in bitter disputes, and touched off sharp debates over the sudden emergence of gas companies and their 14-story drilling rigs, some rising in the middle of towns and neighborhoods.

One side touts the jobs and prosperity drilling brings, allowing businesses to flourish and down-on-their-luck farmers to hang on to their land. Gas leases have made millionaires of some property owners. Regions long struggling economically are suddenly flush.

On the other side are those who either won't gain anything or who fervently

believe the wealth isn't worth the risk. Alarmed by toxic spills, scattered drill site explosions and tainted drinking water, they fear a reduced quality of life and declining property values.

"Those who own their mineral rights are happier than a pig in mud," said Flower Mound resident Chris Tomlinson, who is making thousands of dollars a month from the gas wells drilled on his land. "Those who don't, want it to go away."

Fracking opponents complain the industry has taken environmental and safety shortcuts in their zeal to reap the vast stores of gas once locked tight within the shale.

The acrimony is not likely to subside anytime soon. Even with some 26,000 wells drilled in 16 states through the end of 2009 — more than half of those in Texas — the shale gas revolution is still relatively young.

Most of the wells have been drilled in the past decade, particularly in Pennsylvania's white-hot Marcellus Shale region and in the Barnett Shale of Texas, where the new extraction techniques were perfected and the boom began in earnest in 2006. Hundreds of thousands more wells could be drilled in coming decades, according to drilling companies and energy officials.

In Texas, a state so inextricably linked to drilling that an oil derrick adorns the license plate, the feuding in Flower Mound has been extraordinary.

A rural community about 30 miles northwest of Dallas, it had just over 15,000 residents in 1990 but exploded into an affluent and politically influential suburb of 70,000 by 2009. Relative newcomers drawn by its quality of life filled large brick homes in manicured subdivisions and send their children to highly ranked schools. By and large, they don't own their mineral rights — and many were outraged when gas wells began popping up near their neighborhoods, sometimes just a few hundred feet from schools and day care centers. Today, more than 40 wells are extracting gas in town.

On the other side are the longtime residents, farmers and ranchers who own their mineral rights and stand to make a lot of money on leases and royalties.

"It was pretty much neighbor against neighbor. People just turned on people ... and it's left some pretty nasty divides here in town," said Tomlinson.

Ron Hilliard's decision to have two wells drilled on his land, a half-mile from a Starbucks, two schools and hundreds of homes, brought vandalism, anonymous phone calls and insulting blogs and columns. He finally complained to police.

"I owned my mineral rights," Hilliard says defiantly. "So I'm not doing anything wrong." Hilliard, owner of a wholesale lumber business, would not disclose what he was paid for the lease or gas royalties.

BOEMRE among few agencies to see budget boost

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, which regulates offshore drilling, is among the few federal agencies to come out of the 2011 budget showdown with more money, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Salazar accuses GOP of oil spill 'amnesia'

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar told reporters that House Republican bills to expand offshore drilling ignore the lessons of the Deepwater Horizon blowout, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

California sets 33 percent renewable electricity goal

California Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday signed into law a bill that boosts the state's renewable electricity mandate to 33 percent by 2020, the Los Angeles Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Japan's nuclear crisis ebbing, prime minister says

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said that the Fukushima nuclear plant is slowly coming under control, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Dudley to face tough questions from shareholders

BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley faces a tough questions at the oil company's annual meeting Thursday as shareholders worry about a year that started with the Gulf oil spill and ended with missteps in Russia, the Houston Chronicle

reports.

[Read more](#)

Oil prices fall as demand predictions scaled back

Oil prices fell 3.3 percent as forecasters predicted a pullback in demand because of high prices and growing stocks, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Koch plans to expand pipeline in Texas

Kansas-based Koch Pipelines Company plans to expand its pipeline operations in southern Texas, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

Natural gas price hikes rile Iran

Increases in natural gas prices could lead to protests in Iran, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 13, Washington: NGV America sponsors rally, "Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs) Take the Hill." T. Boone Pickens, lawmakers to speak. Through noon. 8:00 am, 300 block of Maryland Ave., S.W.
- Apr. 13, Washington: House Natural Resources Committee votes on three offshore drilling bills by Chairman Doc Hastings: H.R. 1229, H.R. 1230, and H.R. 1231. 10:00 am, Longworth 1324.
- Apr. 13, Washington: House Energy and Power Subcommittee holds a hearing on the draft bill "Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011." 10:00 am, Rayburn 2322.
- Apr. 13, Washington: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing, "Oversight Hearing on Domestic Renewable Fuels: From Ethanol to

Advanced Biofuels." 10:00 am, Dirksen 406.

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Wednesday, April 13, 2011:

In This E-Mail

House Natural Resources Committee pushes drilling expansion

Obama urges tax increases, spending cuts to address deficit

Pennsylvania gas regulators face scrutiny

Salazar tours first deep-water drilling project to get new permit

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Van Hollen budget plan rescinds oil tax breaks

Consul ups coal production estimate

Brown's climate vote slammed in Boston editorial

Marathon announces oil discovery in Iraq

Companies submit bid to help Japan dismantle distressed reactors

Exxon boss saw compensation increase in 2010 to \$29 million, Journal says

BP likely to be replaced by Russians in Arctic venture

Egypt to review prices on gas contracts

Daybook: Upcoming events

House Natural Resources Committee pushes drilling expansion

By Edward Felker

The House Natural Resources Committee prepared Wednesday to send three bills to the House floor that would speed and expand offshore oil and gas drilling, seeking to give Republicans a favorable position in the growing debate over rising gas prices.

Chairman Doc Hastings, R-Wash., who authored the bills, said action was urgently needed to increase domestic oil and gas production in response to high gasoline prices. He wants votes on the House floor before Memorial Day, when the summer driving season kicks off, though action in the Senate any time soon is unlikely.

"Let there be no doubt that with gasoline prices climbing towards \$4 per gallon, this committee will not sit idly by while America has the tremendous potential to produce more energy here, create jobs and lower prices," Hastings said.

Ranking member Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., argued that the bills are a "gift" to the oil industry and would mark a return to the offshore safety and permitting process that led to the Deepwater Horizon blowout and months-long spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"This legislative package reflects a pre-spill mentality of speed over safety. It would apply huge new swaths of our coasts to drilling without first applying any new safety standards learned from the BP disaster," Markey said.

Hastings responded later that "nothing could be further from the truth," and that the bills rely on new safety rules put into place by the Interior Department in recent months.

The committee, on a party-line 27-16 vote, approved the first bill, by Hastings, that would require an Interior Department decision on permit applications within no more than 60 days.

The committee voted down an amendment by Markey to add safety requirements to the bill, which were drawn from spill response legislation passed unanimously in the House and Energy Commerce committee last year and passed by full House.

An amendment by Rep. Bill Flores, R-Texas, that extended offshore leases that expire this year by one additional year, to account for the post-Deepwater Horizon moratorium, was accepted on a voice vote.

Members also voted down an amendment by Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., that would have required the Interior Department to consult with an independent oil drilling safety organization, as suggested by the National Oil Spill Commission. Republicans argued that the Interior Department should be the sole authority in setting permit conditions.

Committee Republicans were expected to approve the second bill by Hastings to force offshore lease sales this year and next year in the Gulf of Mexico and off the southern Virginia coast. Lease sales in those areas were delayed last year by the Interior Department last year in reaction to the Deepwater Horizon blowout.

The third bill, to direct the Interior Department to add new areas to future lease sale areas based on known oil and gas reserves, was also expected to win easy passage over Democratic opposition.

The bill would effectively add new areas off the East Coast, Florida and southern California to available drilling areas, though opposition from senators is likely to keep the bill from winning passage in the Senate.

Obama urges tax increases, spending cuts to address deficit

By David Espo

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama coupled a call for \$4 trillion in long-term deficit reductions with a blistering attack on Republican plans on taxes, Medicare and Medicaid on Wednesday, laying down markers for a roiling debate in Congress and the 2012 presidential campaign to come.

Obama said spending cuts and higher taxes alike must be part of any deficit-reduction plan, including an end to Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy. He proposed an unspecified "debt failsafe" that would go into effect if Congress failed to make sure the national debt would be falling by 2014 relative to the overall economy.

"We have to live within our means, reduce our deficit and get back on a path that will allow us to pay down our debt," the president said in a speech at George Washington University a few blocks from the White House. "And we have to do it in a way that protects the recovery, and protects the investments we need to grow, create jobs and win the future."

Obama's decision to make higher taxes part of his preferred deficit solution drew strong criticism from Republicans.

Speaker John Boehner said the president had failed to match House Republicans, whom he said have presented a "jobs budget that puts us on a path to paying down the debt and preserves Medicare and Medicaid." With the administration asking Congress to raise the debt limit, he added, "the American people will not stand for that unless it is accompanied by serious action to reduce our deficit. More promises, hollow targets and Washington commissions simply won't get the job done."

The president spoke less than a week after he reached a compromise with

Boehner on an unprecedented package of \$38 billion in spending cuts for this year just in time to avoid a partial government shutdown. Both houses of Congress are expected to pass the measure in the next 24 hours or so, closing the books on the current budget year and clearing the way for a far more defining debate about the size and shape of the government.

Obama stepped to the podium at a juncture when tea party-backed Republicans are relishing early victories in the House, the 2012 Republican presidential field is just beginning to take shape and moderate Democratic lawmakers are charting their re-election campaigns in swing seats. His emphasis on deficit reduction marked an appeal to independents as well as other voters who are eager to stem record annual deficits as well as a national debt that is over \$13 trillion.

At the same time, he sought to keep faith with liberals and other supporters.

Pennsylvania gas regulators face scrutiny

By Michael Rubinkam

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania environmental regulators say they spend as little as 35 minutes reviewing each of the thousands of applications for natural gas well permits they get each year from drillers intent on tapping the state's lucrative and vast Marcellus Shale reserves.

And the regulators say they do not give any additional scrutiny to requests to drill near high-quality streams and rivers even though the waterways are protected by state and federal law.

Staffers in the state Department of Environmental Protection testified behind closed doors last month as part of a lawsuit filed by residents and environmental groups over a permit that DEP issued for an exploratory gas well in northeastern Pennsylvania, less than a half-mile from the Delaware River and about 300 feet from a pristine stream.

Their statements, obtained by The Associated Press, call into question whether regulators are overburdened and merely rubber-stamping permit applications during the unprecedented drilling boom that has turned Pennsylvania into a major player in the natural gas market, while also raising fears about polluted aquifers and air.

The agency has denied few requests to drill in the Marcellus Shale formation, the world's second-largest gas field. Of the 7,019 applications that DEP has processed since 2005, only 31 have been rejected — less than one-half of one percent.

"Even those of us who are skeptics of the DEP, I think we all want to assume that they're doing the basics. And they're really just not," said Jordan Yeager, a plaintiffs' attorney who is challenging the drilling permit awarded to Newfield

Appalachia PA LLC, a unit of Houston-based Newfield Exploration Co.

The agency declined to comment about any aspect of its permit review process, even to answer general questions.

Salazar tours first deep-water drilling project to get new permit

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and other top regulators in charge of offshore oil and gas exploration on Wednesday got a close-up look at the first deep-water drilling project permitted since such work was halted after the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Pipelines had 6,500 incidents in 2010, CBS finds

A CBS News investigation found there were at least 6,500 spills, leaks, fires or explosions nationwide in the United States last year, that released at least 34 million gallons of crude oil and other potentially toxic chemicals.

[Read more](#)

Van Hollen budget plan rescinds oil tax breaks

Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a Democratic leader and ranking member on the House Budget Committee, unveiled a budget plan Wednesday that includes eliminating tax breaks for major oil companies, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Consul ups coal production estimate

Coal giant Consol Energy on Wednesday impressed Wall Street by increasing its 2011 coal production target, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Brown's climate vote slammed in Boston editorial

The Boston Globe published an editorial Wednesday that slams Sen. Scott Brown's vote last week to support an unsuccessful effort to kill the Environmental Protection Agency's climate change rules.

[Read more](#)

Marathon announces oil discovery in Iraq

Marathon Oil announced Wednesday that one of its subsidiaries participated in a successful discovery well in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, the Houston Chronicle reports.

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Companies submit bid to help Japan dismantle distressed reactors

Hitachi and General Electric—joined by Bechtel and Exelon—have submitted a plan to help Japan dismantle the crippled Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant they helped build as Japanese engineers battle to contain the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Exxon boss saw compensation increase in 2010 to \$29 million, Journal says

Exxon Mobil Chief Executive Rex Tillerson received about \$29 million in total compensation in 2010, a 6.6% increase from the previous year, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

BP likely to be replaced by Russians in Arctic venture

Russian state-controlled oil company OAO Rosneft told investors in London that BP PLC will almost certainly have to be replaced with another partner in an alliance to develop Arctic oil fields, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Egypt to review prices on gas contracts

Egypt's prime minister on Wednesday ordered a review of natural gas contracts to Israel and Jordan, hoping to appease growing frustrations that it was moving too slowly on reforms following President Hosni Mubarak's ouster, Forbes reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 14, Washington: Interior Department Ministerial Forum on Offshore Drilling Containment. National oil spill commission co-chair Reilly, BP Regional President Dupree, with officials from major oil producing nations. RSVP by Apr. 8. 9:00 am, Interior Department, 1849 C Street, N.W.
- Apr. 14, Washington: House Appropriations Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee public witness testimony on 2012 appropriations. Through Friday. 9:30 am, Rayburn B-308.
- Apr. 14, Washington: House Appropriations Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee holds second day of public witness testimony on 2012 appropriations. 9:30 am, Rayburn B-308.
- Apr. 14, Washington: House Energy and Commerce environment and economy subcommittee hearing on coal ash waste bill, H.R. 1391. 9:30 am, Rayburn 2322.
- Apr. 14, Washington: House Small Business Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade hearing, "Drilling for a Solution: Finding Ways to Curtail the Crushing Effect of High Gas Prices on Small Business" 10:00 am, Rayburn 2360.
- Apr. 14, Washington: National Press Club newsmaker forum, "The Future of Nuclear Power." Former Rep. Phil Sharp, Greenpeace's Jim Riccio, analyst Kevin Book to speak. 10:00 am, National Press Club.
- Apr. 14, Washington: House Appropriations Labor subcommittee hearing on 2012 appropriations for OSHA, Mine Safety and Health Administration. MSHA Admin. Main to testify. 10:00 am, Rayburn 2358-C.
- Apr. 14, Washington: Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., introduces Gulf of Mexico

restoration bill. 11:00 am, Capitol.

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in landmark Clean Air deal, TVA to pare coal operations
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Chevron doesn't have to pay costs of 2004 spill cleanup
Scuffles, protests mar BP shareholder meeting
Chevron CEO made \$14 million in 2010
Salazar expresses concern on Cuban drilling
Spill commission members urge caution on drilling legislation
EPA's Jackson: Environmental policy need to be bipartisan, not political
BP says Gulf cleanup 95 percent complete
Will future budget cuts undercut Obama's clean energy?
Japan looks to energy efficiency to get through summer
Daybook: Upcoming events

Republicans challenge proposed EPA coal ash regulations

By Edward Felker

Republicans on a House Energy and Commerce panel on Thursday challenged the lack of a jobs impact study for proposed coal ash rules by the Environmental Protection Agency.

At a hearing held by the Environment and Economy Subcommittee on a draft bill to restrict EPA authority to declare the ash as hazardous waste, Mathy Stanislaus, EPA's assistant administrator for the office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response stressed that EPA conducts economic analyses on all proposed rules.

However, he acknowledged that no specific jobs impact studies were done, which prompted Chairman John Shimkus, R-Ill. to say EPA was not following the regulatory reviews ordered in January by President Barack Obama.

"If you have not done a direct jobs analysis, are you not complying with the president's executive order? I would submit...that you are not complying with the president's executive orders," Shimkus said.

Shimkus and other Republicans made it clear that they would oppose any designation of coal ash as a hazardous waste as a threat to the recycling industry, because of the stigma that would be attached to using an ingredient with that label.. "This is not a small thing. This is what's got a lot of us concerned," Shimkus said.

Stanislaus said EPA for that reason was proposing to classify coal ash as a "special" waste under two regulation options that seek to limit the leaching of arsenic, cadmium and mercury into groundwater and the air.

EPA last year proposed new rules under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to regulate the disposal of the 134 million tons of ash generated annually, mostly by power plants, that is put in landfills or recycled into concrete, gypsum wallboard and other uses.

"The proposal is limited to the safe management of coal ash disposal, and it does not go beyond that, it does not seek to propose to regulate the beneficial use of coal ash in various other products," Stanislaus said.

Coal ash became a national issue in 2008 when an impoundment dam at a Tennessee Valley Authority power plant in Kingston, Tenn., failed and flooded about 300 acres and the nearby Clinch and Emory rivers. EPA's proposals generated 450,000 written comments and about 15,000 comments at public hearings.

One option would make non-recycled ash subject to federal handling and permitting requirements when stockpiled or put in landfills. The second option would be to establish minimum safety criteria but leave enforcement to the states and citizen lawsuits. Both options would set new standards for impoundment dams.

The pending bill by subcommittee member Rep. David McKinley, R-W.V., would block EPA regulation of coal ash as a hazardous waste, which would require federal permits for storage and landfill disposal.

Shimkus did not say when his subcommittee or the Energy and Commerce Committee might take up the bill.

In landmark Clean Air deal, TVA to pare coal operations

By Bill Poovey

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — The nation's largest public utility is shuttering operations that account for about 16 percent of its coal-fired capacity over five years to settle lawsuits from several states over air quality, its board said Thursday.

Tennessee Valley Authority chief executive Tom Kilgore said the utility will also pay a \$10 million civil penalty under the agreement with the states, the Environmental Protection Agency and environmental groups. Kilgore said the agreement announced at a board meeting stems from long-running private negotiations.

The shut-downs starting in 2012 include all 10 units at Johnsonville Fossil Plant and two units at John Sevier Fossil Plant in Tennessee, along with six units at Widows Creek Fossil Plant in Alabama. Kilgore said the moves will phase out 2,700 megawatts of TVA's 17,000 megawatts of coal-fired capacity by 2017.

Environmental activists were commending TVA for initiating the private talks that settled court fights between the nation's largest public utility and Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and North Carolina.

"This is the largest coal retirement agreement the nation has ever seen," said Bruce Niles, the Sierra Club's deputy conservation director. "We have been battling TVA for more than a decade to get them to address their aging coal fleet and this provides a framework. We are commending TVA for moving in a different direction."

The agreement also calls for TVA to spend \$350 million on environmental projects over the next five years.

Kilgore said the timing of his decision to stop the legal fighting that began in 2009 was not related to the change in presidential administrations and the prospect of new environmental enforcement.

But Niles said "for eight years the Bush administration refused to enforce the Clean Air Act. Under (EPA Administrator) Lisa Jackson's watch they are playing catchup."

"It certainly helps when the federal cops on the beat are doing their jobs," Niles said.

The TVA board at its Thursday meeting approved a long-range plan that calls for decreasing the utility's reliance on coal and increasing use of nuclear power, renewable energy, natural gas, hydroelectric and conservation.

The shut-downs announced Thursday will phase out 300 to 400 jobs. TVA executives said efforts will be made to provide other jobs. Kilgore said TVA cannot guarantee that every displaced employee will be offered a job at the same location.

About 4,600 of TVA's 12,000 employees work in coal-related jobs.

TVA supplies power to about 9 million people in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

Congress sends budget cuts to Obama for signing

By David Espo

WASHINGTON (AP) _ With bipartisan support but little enthusiasm, Congress on Thursday sent President Barack Obama legislation making \$38 billion in cuts from domestic programs.

The actions Thursday clear the way for a broader debate about spending priorities in an era of soaring budget deficits. That struggle begins in earnest on Friday, when House Republicans are expected to approve a budget that calls for major changes in Medicare and Medicaid, as well as deep cuts elsewhere.

The Senate vote was 81-19. It came not long after the House gave its approval, 260-167.

The bill was the product of negotiations involving the White House, House Republicans and Senate Democrats, who reached agreement last week in barely enough time to avert a threatened government shutdown.

"Welcome to divided government," said Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, Republican point man in tough negotiations on a bill that no one in Congress claimed to like in its entirety. He said the cuts in domestic programs were unprecedented, yet he also called the measure a less-than-perfect first step in a long campaign against federal deficits and a national debt that exceeds \$14 trillion.

Even before the bill became law, House Republicans pointed eagerly toward a vote Friday on their next move against red ink, a comprehensive budget that claims deficit cuts measured in the trillions, rather than billions, in the next

decade. That vote is expected to be as partisan as the spending bill was not.

Thursday's legislation drew the support of 179 Republicans and 59 Democrats in the House, their votes ratifying last week's agreement among the White House, House Republicans and Senate Democrats that came barely in time to avoid a partial government shutdown.

Another 59 Republicans and 108 Democrats opposed the bill.

While Republicans were unable to muster a 218-vote majority for the spending cuts on their own, the huge freshman class broke heavily in favor, 60-27.

Normally vocal, GOP critics of the legislation did not speak during debate. "This is done. I'm prepared to move on to bigger issues," said one of them, Rep. Bill Huizinga of Michigan.

The measure finances the government through the Sept. 30 end of the budget year, chopping \$38 billion from current levels and \$78 billion from the president's request of more than a year ago.

Billions were saved by eliminating congressional earmarks, and billions more in funds from the Census Bureau, left over from the 2010 national head count, now finished.

The Environmental Protection Agency, one of the Republicans' favorite targets, took a \$1.6 billion cut. Spending for community health centers was reduced by \$600 million, and the Community Development Block Grant program favored by mayors by \$950 million more.

The bipartisan drive to cut federal spending reached into every corner of the government's sprawl of domestic programs. Money to renovate the Commerce Department building in Washington was cut by \$8 million. The Appalachian Regional Commission, a New Deal-era program, was nicked for another \$8 million and the National Park Service by \$127 million more.

The earlier House bill included numerous other provisions unrelated to spending. Many were aimed at the Environmental Protection Agency, and would have blocked proposed rules to limit greenhouse gas, pollution into the Chesapeake Bay, mercury emissions from cement factories and more.

Chevron doesn't have to pay costs of 2004 spill cleanup

By The Associated Press

Citgo does not have to pay \$177 million in cleanup costs from a massive 2004 oil tanker spill into the Delaware River.

A U.S. judge ruled this week that Citgo isn't responsible for the spill, caused

when the single-hull tanker struck a rusty anchor in the river's bottom.

More than 200,000 gallons of heavy crude oil spilled out as the tanker neared the Citgo dock in Paulsboro, N.J., near Philadelphia. The spill hampered shipping and polluted more than 45 miles of shoreline in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Senior U.S. Judge John Fullam blames the spill on the person who abandoned the anchor in the river. That person's identity remains unknown because the portion of the anchor that contains identifying marks was broken off.

Scuffles, protests mar BP shareholder meeting

By Jane Wardell

LONDON (AP) — Scuffles between protesters and security guards marred BP's first annual shareholder meeting since the Gulf oil spill, with shrimpers blocked from entering Thursday's meeting to demand more compensation.

The protesters included five Gulf Coast residents who had planned to tell investors about the loss of their livelihoods and health problems after the spill. Outside the building, separate groups demonstrated over BP's polluting tar sands project in Canada and labor disputes in Britain.

Diane Wilson, a fourth-generation fisherwoman from Seadrift, Texas, was arrested after evading security to enter the foyer of the building, where she covered herself in a dark syrup to represent oil.

"I've come all the way here from the Gulf Coast," Wilson said. "My community is gone, and they won't let me in."

Inside the venue, BP PLC investors who have watched the company lose a quarter of its market value — some \$55 billion — over the past year and lost their dividend payments questioned board members about excessive executive pay packets and a lack of transparency on safety improvements.

Some were supportive of BP's board. New Chief Executive Bob Dudley frequently won smatterings of applause for his comments, including his opening statement that "BP remains a great company with a great history and I believe a great future."

"Not every company gets such an opportunity and we don't intend to squander it," he added, stressing the company's three priorities post-spill are strengthening safety, winning back the company's reputation and restoring long-term value for shareholders.

Dudley and his fellow board members are battling to gain the confidence of institutional shareholders after a year that began with the Gulf of Mexico

disaster and is ending with a disputed oil exploration deal in Russia.

Just hours before the meeting, Russia's OAO Rosneft agreed to move the deadline to complete a \$16 billion share swap with BP from Thursday to May 16.

The deal was supposed to cement BP's move forward from the Gulf spill and show a diminished reliance on the United States — BP hasn't yet received the OK to resume drilling in the Gulf. The Russian initiative — to explore the Russian sector of the Arctic — ran aground after a quartet of Russian billionaires, BP's partners in the older TNK-BP venture, won an injunction in the London courts. They claim the new deal violates their own agreement with the London-based company.

"I think we have to be realistic," Svanberg said when asked if BP was confident of coming to an agreement with TNK-BP to lift the injunction. "I assure you we will do what we can to land it in a good way."

Dudley said BP had jointly offered with Rosneft to buy the billionaires' stake in TNK-BP.

Svanberg received 92.9 percent of votes in favor of his re-election, according to provisional results based on votes cast before the meeting. Bill Castell, the head of the safety, ethics and environment assurance committee, received just 75 percent of votes for his reappointment.

A resolution to approve the BP remuneration report received just 89 percent of votes in favor. The official count, which incorporates the votes cast during the meeting Thursday, will be released Friday, BP said.

More protesters did gain entry to the meeting and tried to access the stage during a discussion of the company's controversial tar sands project in Canada. They were dragged away by security.

As a mark of respect for the upcoming anniversary of the Macondo well explosion, Dudley read out the names of the 11 men killed in the April 20 incident that has so far cost BP some \$40 billion — and former CEO Tony Hayward his job.

Chevron CEO made \$14 million in 2010

By Chris Kahn

NEW YORK (AP) — Chevron Corp.'s top executive was paid \$14 million last year, according to an Associated Press analysis.

John Watson, 54, who was promoted to CEO and chairman of the board last year, received \$7.2 million in 2009 when he served as vice chairman.

The increase in compensation came mostly from a 150 percent jump in a performance-based cash bonus to \$3 million, and from stock options worth \$5.5 million, up from \$2.6 million in 2009. Watson also received a 56 percent salary increase to \$1.47 million and a 57 percent increase in stock awards worth \$3.8 million, according to an SEC filing on Thursday.

Watson was granted \$220,496 in perks such as contributions to an employee savings plan, financial counseling and use of company aircraft.

The compensation is below that of Watson's predecessor, David J. O'Reilly, who was paid \$15.2 million in 2009. It's also less than the \$21.5 million that Exxon Mobil Corp. Rex Tillerson made in 2010.

Chevron, based in San Ramon, Calif., is the second-largest petroleum company in the U.S. behind Exxon Mobil Corp. In Watson's first year at the top, Chevron nearly doubled company earnings to \$19.1 billion and boosted its stock value 19 percent.

The Associated Press formula calculates an executive's total compensation during the last fiscal year by adding salary, bonuses, perks, above-market interest the company pays on deferred compensation and the estimated value of stock and stock options awarded during the year. The AP formula does not count changes in the present value of pension benefits. That makes the AP total slightly different in most cases from the total reported by companies to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The value that a company assigned to an executive's stock and option awards for 2010 was the present value of what the company expected the awards to be worth to the executive over time. Companies use one of several formulas to calculate that value. However, the number is just an estimate, and what an executive ultimately receives will depend on the performance of the company's stock in the years after the awards are granted.

Most stock compensation programs require an executive to wait a specified amount of time to receive shares or to exercise options.

Salazar expresses concern on Cuban drilling

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Thursday that the United States is closely monitoring plans by the Cuban government to green-light oil drilling in Gulf of Mexico waters and that he remains concerned, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Spill commission members urge caution on drilling

legislation

Leaders of the presidential commission that investigated the BP oil spill are warning against "cutting corners" on offshore-drilling permits as the House considers legislation to speed regulatory approval, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

EPA's Jackson: Environmental policy need to be bipartisan, not political

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson writes in an op-ed published Thursday by The Hill that Americans expect "bipartisan solutions that focus on their health, and not on political outcomes" when it comes to environmental policy.

[Read more](#)

BP says Gulf cleanup 95 percent complete

BP is nearly finished with its sprawling cleanup effort in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coastlines of the four states affected by last year's massive oil spill, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Will future budget cuts undercut Obama's clean energy?

President Barack Obama's green agenda is dependent on government subsidies that may be at risk in the coming budget debates, Fox News reports.

[Read more](#)

Japan looks to energy efficiency to get through summer

Japan's industries are turning to energy savings to help cope with the damaged

power sector, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Upcoming events

- Apr. 15, Washington: House Resources national security and national parks subcommittees hold hearing, "The Border: Are Environmental Laws and Regulation Impeding Security and Harming the Environment?" 9:30 am, Rayburn 2154.
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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Friday,
April 15, 2011:

In This E-Mail

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Could a catastrophic oil spill strike again?

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Upton: Republicans want to protect environment, and jobs

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Prospects improve for natural gas conversion legislation

By Edward Felker

Tax credits to speed the adoption of natural gas-powered vehicles stand out as one of the few areas of potential agreement on energy issues between President Barack Obama and Republicans on Capitol Hill.

But the key sticking point that stopped the NAT GAS bills from getting passed last year—offsetting costs in an anti-spending budget environment—is a key unresolved issue as backers begin a renewed push for passage.

This year the Republican House is expected to take up legislation first, said Rep. John Sullivan, R-Okla., one of four bipartisan original co-sponsors of a five-year tax credits bill, H.R. 1380.

By Thursday 156 co-sponsors had signed up, and Sullivan was confident that the number would reach more than 200, about equally divided between both parties. He said he had the backing of leadership for a vote on the bill as a standalone measure.

"We get a good vote here, send it over with the pay-fors, we feel in the Senate it makes it more difficult to change. It also gives us a good strength position as we go over there," he said.

The cost of their bill is yet to be officially determined, but Sullivan expects it be about \$3.5 billion over five years.

He and his cosponsors will identify unspent funds from the 2009 economic stimulus bill to offset the new spending, but don't want to reveal them until the bill gets closer to a vote. "We don't want anyone to steal from them from us. They're just kind of unspent stuff," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said changes to the bill that make it a voluntary program and reduces the tax credit from 17 years to just five years, compared to a similar House bill last year, also helps in the Republican House. "All this industry really needs is a nudge...we feel this will get the (costs) down enough," he added.

The natural gas transportation bill by Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah., and Robert Menendez, D-N.J., last year died in the Senate when Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid proposed offsetting costs with increased fees on the oil industry. Hatch and other Republican backers abandoned the bill rather than support higher taxes.

Congress ended up extending through 2011 a 50-cent per gallon tax credit for compressed or liquid natural gas used as transportation fuel, but let other tax credits expire. Sullivan's bill would extend that credit for five years and renew

expired alternative fuel vehicle purchase and refueling property tax credits.

Hatch and Menendez separately said they were interested in re-introducing their legislation together this year, but have yet to iron out the details. Hatch said he will likely support the legislation that comes out of the House, in part because it will have offsets he can support.

"You can't have a lousy offset," Hatch said. "I think they'll come up with a better offset than what we had over here. They just wanted a tax increase and I'm not willing to do that," he added.

Menendez said discussions are underway to reach agreement with Hatch. "That's what we're trying to figure out—can we come together on common pay-fors," he said.

Seeking to rally support has been longtime oilman-turned-natural gas advocate T. Boone Pickens, chairman of BP Capital Management, who has been meeting with lawmakers, his spokesman Jay Rosser said.

Rosser said Pickens sees better prospects for passage of legislation, based on Obama's endorsement of natural gas-powered transportation in his energy independence agenda, along with the spike in oil prices this spring.

"The turmoil in the Middle East and ever-increasing gas prices only adds to the urgency," Rosser said.

Could a catastrophic oil spill strike again?

By Harry R. Weber and Holbrook Mohr

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — With everything Big Oil and the government have learned in the year since the Gulf of Mexico disaster, could it happen again? Absolutely, according to an Associated Press examination of the industry and interviews with experts on the perils of deep-sea drilling.

The government has given the OK for oil exploration in treacherously deep waters to resume, saying it is confident such drilling can be done safely. The industry has given similar assurances. But there are still serious questions in some quarters about whether the lessons of the BP oil spill have been applied.

The industry "is ill-prepared at the least," said Charles Perrow, a Yale University professor specializing in accidents involving high-risk technologies. "I have seen no evidence that they have marshaled containment efforts that are sufficient to deal with another major spill. I don't think they have found ways to change the corporate culture sufficiently to prevent future accidents."

He added: "There are so many opportunities for things to go wrong that major

spills are unavoidable.”

The worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history began with an explosion April 20, 2010, that killed 11 workers aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig. More than 200 million gallons of crude spewed from the well a mile beneath the sea.

Since then, new drilling rules have been imposed, a high-tech system for capping a blown-out well and containing the oil has been built, and regulators have taken steps to ramp up oversight of the industry.

But deep-sea drilling remains highly risky. The effectiveness of the much-touted containment system is being questioned because it hasn't been tested on the sea floor. A design flaw in the blowout preventers widely used across the industry has been identified but not corrected. And regulators are allowing companies to obtain drilling permits before approving their updated oil-spill response plans.

After a monthslong moratorium, the Obama administration resumed issuing drilling permits earlier this year amid great pressure from the industry and lawmakers seeking to protect communities and workers whose livelihoods depend on drilling.

A petroleum industry group is creating a center for offshore safety in Houston to address management practices and improve industry communication. And the agency that oversees offshore drilling now bars inspectors from regulating a company that employs a family member or friend. Also, inspectors who join the agency from the oil industry cannot perform inspections of their former employers for two years.

BP says it is poised to become a much safer company. It ousted several key figures during the disaster — including CEO Tony Hayward — and created a powerful unit to police company safety. BP spokesman Daren Beaudou said that because of advances made during the crisis, “the capability exists to respond to a deep-water well blowout.” Similarly, Chevron spokesman Russell A. Johnson said his company is “confident of our ability to prevent an incident similar” to the Gulf oil spill.

Whether any of that translates into better protection remains to be seen.

“I’m not an oddsmaker, but I would say in the next five years we should have at least one major blowout,” Perrow said. “Even if everybody tries very hard, there is going to be an accident caused by cost-cutting and pressure on workers. These are moneymaking machines and they make money by pushing things to the limit.”

Lawmakers worry about quake dangers at California nuclear plants

By Adam Weintraub

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers kept up the pressure Thursday for a harder look at earthquake safety at the two nuclear power plants in the state, questioning why federal regulators won't halt relicensing work until new seismic maps are completed.

"The seismic safety of our plants cannot be an afterthought," said Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Los Angeles, chairman of the Senate energy committee.

It's the second time a state Senate committee has addressed nuclear safety since a massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11 damaged several nuclear reactors in Japan.

Given that California's nuclear plants — Diablo Canyon near San Luis Obispo and San Onofre north of San Diego — face the highest seismic risk of any in the United States, continued scrutiny is needed to make the plants as safe as possible, Padilla said.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co., which operates Diablo Canyon, has applied to renew licenses that expire in 2024 and 2025.

This month, after pressure from state lawmakers and California's U.S. senators, PG&E asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to delay issuing the licenses until it completes three-dimensional seismic maps of a newly discovered offshore fault less than a half-mile from Diablo Canyon.

The NRC has not responded but was moving forward with other parts of the license review, according to Troy Pruett, deputy director for reactor projects for an NRC division in Dallas.

The NRC staff has spent thousands of hours preparing an environmental and safety review and wants to get that information to the public for review even if the seismic mapping work continues, Pruett said.

State Sen. Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo, said the newly discovered Shoreline fault presents a threat to Diablo Canyon, and the mapping work is crucial to understanding that threat.

"How can you possibly make an assertion about the safety ... if you have not yet reviewed the data?" he asked.

"We're reviewing the data we have in hand," Pruett replied.

"The data you have in hand is not adequate," Blakeslee replied.

Pruett said the licensing work and seismic safety studies are related but independent.

"If NRC became aware of a seismic or safety concern that threatened safe

operation, we would take action immediately," he said.

Japan orders compensation to nuclear disaster evacuees

By Mari Yamaguchi and Shino Yuasa

TOKYO (AP) — The government ordered the operator of Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear plant Friday to pay an initial \$12,000 for each household forced to evacuate because of leaking radiation — a handout some of the displaced slammed as too little.

Tens of thousands of residents unable to return to their homes near the nuclear plant are bereft of their livelihoods and possessions, unsure of when, if ever, they will be able to return home. Some have traveled hundreds of kilometers (miles) to Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s headquarters in Tokyo to press their demands for compensation.

"We have decided to pay provisional compensation to provide the slightest help for the people (who were affected)," TEPCO President Masataka Shimizu told a news conference.

The utility will start paying out the roughly 50 billion yen (\$600 million) in compensation April 28 to those forced to evacuate, with families getting 1 million yen (about \$12,000) and single adults getting 750,000 yen (about \$9,000), the government said.

Roughly 48,000 households living within about 19 miles (30 kilometers) of the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant would be eligible for the payments, said Trade Ministry spokesman Hiroaki Wada. More compensation was expected later, he said.

Boehner won't rule out EPA vote during debt ceiling debate

House Speaker John Boehner isn't ruling out putting curbs on EPA regulations when lawmakers cast high-stakes votes next month on raising the federal debt ceiling, Clean Air Watch reports.

[Read more](#)

Upton: Republicans want to protect environment, and jobs

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton lays out a GOP vision for being green friendly, writing in a Politico op-ed that to "do right by the planet, we ought to keep energy production and manufacturing here in

America by striking an appropriate regulatory balance.”

[Read more](#)

Vitter, Landrieu unveil bill to restore Gulf Coast from oil spill

Louisiana Sens. David Vitter and Mary Landrieu introduced legislation Thursday that would set aside 80 percent of Clean Water Act penalties from last year's oil spill for Gulf coast restoration, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reports.

[Read more](#)

Shimkus presses for nuclear storage site

Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., argues Friday in a Politico op-ed that Americans “must take a hard look at our country's lack of a central storage facility for nuclear waste.”

[Read more](#)

Congress fails to address BP oil spill nearly year later

Lawmakers are nowhere close to responding legislatively to the BP disaster that killed 11 workers and spewed an estimated 4.9 million barrels of oil in the Gulf of Mexico, Politico reports.

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Energy technology agency to release new wares

ARPA-E, the government's energy technology development arm, hopes to test a new energy storage technology on America's electricity grid, The New York Times reports.

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30,000 petitioners oppose gas drilling near Delaware River

Environmentalists on Thursday delivered to federal regulators a record 30,000 public comments opposing natural gas drilling near the Delaware River, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

Alternative energy runs into resistance as cheaper natural gas rises

Cheap natural gas is beating renewables as the lowest-cost option for meeting the nation's needs, putting subsidies for some alternative energies at risk, Politico reports.

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Green groups to increase pressure on lawmakers who voted against EPA

Top environmental groups plan to target increased political pressure against lawmakers who voted for a series of proposals aimed at blocking or limiting Environmental Protection Agency climate rules, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Gore to address young climate lobbyists

Former Vice President Al Gore will speak Friday evening to a conference of largely young climate change and green energy advocates, giving him a forum to weigh in on recent GOP efforts to curb greenhouse gas regulations, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Duke Energy to build \$44 million battery storage system for wind power

Duke Energy, which operates 986 megawatts of wind-energy capacity, has selected Xtreme Power for a \$44 million project to design and install the world's largest power-storage system for wind power, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Off-duty mechanic shut off pipeline in deadly blast before utility could

Newly released federal documents show an off-duty company mechanic helped battle a deadly, gas-fueled inferno outside San Francisco by responding on his own before Pacific Gas & Electric Co. officials recognized one of their pipelines had exploded, The Associated Press reports.

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Japanese companies look to conserve energy during crunch

Big Japanese companies are exploring ways to save energy, with the country's quake-damaged power facilities likely to be stretched thin, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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In This E-Mail

Bingaman taking another swing at offshore safety legislation

House passes GOP budget plan making big cuts for 2012 and beyond

Gasoline averaging \$4 a gallon in 5 states

Consumers feel the pinch of pricier gas and food

Japan's TEPCO to use gas to offset nuke power loss

Murkowski drafts bill on U.S. mineral strategy

Democrats try to revive mine safety bill

Fish and Wildlife Service makes third attempt to de-list gray wolf

Landrieu makes case for using BP fines to help restore Gulf

Marine Well Containment Co. unveils new spill cap

Texas debates repealing natural gas tax break

A year after Macondo, impacts still felt along Gulf coast

China grapples with downsides of economic expansion

Siemens rethinks nuclear ambitions

Daybook: Upcoming events

Bingaman taking another swing at offshore safety

legislation

By Edward Felker

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman wants to make a new effort to break the logjam over legislation to improve offshore drilling safety in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon accident.

A spokesman for ranking Republican Lisa Murkowski of Alaska cautioned, however, that she wants to see legislation to expand offshore drilling included in overall energy legislation before she's willing to sign on to a safety and response bill.

Bob Simon, the energy committee chief of staff, told reporters that Bingaman, D-N.M., and Murkowski have been discussing a new version of the Outer Continental Shelf Reform Act that passed the committee unanimously last June by voice vote. That bill failed to get a vote on the Senate floor before time ran out last December.

"Sens. Bingaman and Murkowski continue to discuss how we can fine-tune the bill from last year and introduce it and move it through relatively quickly. We hope to do that in the very near future," he said.

Simon said lawmakers are focused on what he said was "fixing the system" of offshore drilling oversight and on the question of long-term predictability in safety rules and access to areas currently off-limits.

He added that the energy committee and others, notably the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, share jurisdiction over related issues such as liability caps and coastal restoration funding that must be resolved to get a bipartisan consensus on offshore safety measures.

Murkowski needs to see the access issue addressed, her spokesman Robert Dillon said, or bipartisan support won't materialize to pass a safety and response bill.

"The important point is, how do you balance increased production with increased safety?," Dillon said.

The bill passed by the committee last year codified the creation of the new Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement at the Interior Department, boosted offshore safety requirements, set up new inspection fees to fund enforcement work and imposed tougher sanctions and financial requirements on drillers.

Simon said that bill is likely to be updated to reflect conclusions reached by the National Oil Spill Commission, but did not offer specifics.

"A number of those (commission) recommendations match up pretty well with what we did before, but we want to make sure...that we benefit from the extent possible, the maximum extent possible, the work that they've done and the insights they've brought to the table," he said.

Asked to predict the chances for compromise between Bingaman's views and those of House Republicans, who are pushing bills to speed up offshore drilling permitting and expand into new areas of the Gulf of Mexico and off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Simon said that any oil bill that gets broad bipartisan support in one chamber opens the door for a deal with the other chamber.

"Our task in the Senate is to do what we can to identify the right policy mix to respond to these challenges, and then to go and sit down with the House people, and start the give-and-take process with them," he added.

House passes GOP budget plan making big cuts for 2012 and beyond

By Andrew Taylor

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a prelude to a summer showdown with President Barack Obama, Republicans controlling the House pushed to passage on Friday a bold but politically dangerous budget blueprint to slash social safety net programs like food stamps and Medicaid and fundamentally restructure Medicare health care for the elderly.

The nonbinding plan lays out a fiscal vision cutting \$6.2 trillion from yearly federal deficits over the coming decade and calls for transforming Medicare from a program in which the government directly pays medical bills into a voucher-like system that subsidizes purchases of private insurance plans

The GOP budget passed 235-193 with every Democrat voting "no." Obama said in an Associated Press interview that it would "make Medicare into a voucher program. That's something that we strongly object to."

The vote sets up the Republicans' next round of confrontation with Obama and Democrats over must-pass legislation to allow the government to borrow more money to finance its operations and obligations to holders of U.S. bonds. For the first time, Obama acknowledged that raising the debt limit is "not going to happen without some spending cuts" insisted upon by Republicans and some Democrats.

Under the House Republican plan approved Friday, deficits requiring the federal government to borrow more than 40 cents for every dollar it spends would be cut by the end of the decade to 8 cents of borrowing for every dollar spent.

"If the president won't lead, we will," Boehner said as he closed debate. "No

more kicking the can down the road, no more whistling past the graveyard. Now is the time to address the serious challenges that face the American people and we will."

Obama saw the situation differently. In the AP interview, he said the Republicans' "pessimistic vision ... says that America can no longer do some of the big things that made us great, that made us the envy of the world."

Gasoline averaging \$4 a gallon in 5 states

By Chris Kahn

NEW YORK (AP) — The average price of gasoline is now above \$4 per gallon in five states, and it could rise to that level in New York and Washington, D.C., this weekend.

For American drivers, the \$4 mark is a grim reminder of tougher times. The last time gas prices were that high was in the summer of 2008, just before the economy went into a tailspin. Retail surveys suggest motorists are reacting to higher prices now by buying less fuel, yet the government expects pump prices to keep climbing this summer.

The national average has increased for 24 straight days, hitting \$3.82 per gallon on Friday. Motorists in Connecticut, Illinois, California, Hawaii and Alaska now pay more than \$4 per gallon. A gallon of regular cost an average of \$3.979 in New York and \$3.999 in Washington.

The rapid increase at the pump follows a parallel rise in oil. Oil, which has been rising slowly since 2009, gained momentum as the Libyan rebellion effectively shut down its exports. Crude has jumped 28 percent since the uprising began in the middle of February.

Oil fluctuated this week amid uncertainty about how much higher it could go. It resumed its climb on Friday with some positive economic news. The Federal Reserve released data showing U.S. factories increased production for the ninth consecutive month in March. And the Labor Department reported that inflation rose 0.1 percent last month, excluding food and gas prices. Analysts expected inflation to rise twice as much.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery rose \$1.55 to settle at \$109.66 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. At one point it rose to \$110.10. In London, Brent crude added \$1.45 to settle at \$123.45 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Some traders and analysts expect oil to keep rising this year, arguing that the Libyan crisis will continue to constrict world supplies. Libya provided less than 2 percent of global demand. The world may still enjoy a surplus of crude, but experts say OPEC would struggle to keep up with demand if another conflict

hampers oil production elsewhere.

Others point to retail surveys and industry reports that suggest Americans have started to buy less fuel, which could bring down the price.

"The biggest problem is that the data is not that reliable in the short term," said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research. "And when you're in a bull market like this, people will talk themselves out of negative news. They'll say any drop in demand is an aberration: People aren't burning their SUVs just yet, and the economy hasn't collapsed."

Experts say crude could remain in a holding pattern while the market awaits further evidence about how consumers are handling higher prices.

This week, benchmark crude has mostly moved against the dollar. Oil, which is traded in dollars, tends to rise when the dollar weakens and makes crude barrels cheaper for investors holding foreign currency. It tends to fall when the greenback moves in the opposite direction.

In other Nymex trading for May contracts, heating oil rose 3.52 cents to settle at \$3.2242 per gallon and gasoline gained 5.45 cents to settle at \$3.2892 per gallon. Natural gas gave up 0.8 cent to settle at \$4.204 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Consumers feel the pinch of pricier gas and food

By Christopher S. Rugaber

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are paying more for food and gas, a trend that threatens to slow the economy at a crucial time.

So far, the spike in such necessities hasn't stopped businesses from stepping up hiring or slowed factory production, which rose in March for the ninth straight month. Still, higher gas prices have led some economists to lower their forecasts for growth for the January-March quarter.

Consumer prices rose 0.5 percent last month, the Labor Department said Friday. Nearly all of the gains came from pricier gas and food.

When taking out those two volatile categories, core inflation was relatively flat. But at the same time, employees are only seeing small, if any, pay increases.

"People have less money to spend on goods other than food and energy and that is going to cause the expansion to slow," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

The spike in prices is hitting most Americans just as the economy is gaining momentum. Businesses added more than 200,000 jobs in March and February, the best two-month hiring stretch in four years. And the unemployment rate has

fallen to a two-year low of 8.8 percent.

Consumers also have a little more money to spend this year, thanks to a one-year cut in Social Security taxes.

But most of the extra \$1,000 to \$2,000 per person is filling the gas tank. The national average for a gallon was \$3.82 (\$1 a liter) on Friday — nearly \$1 a gallon more than a year ago. In five states, the average price is exceeding \$4 a gallon.

How big the economic impact will be is the critical question. Many analysts expect food prices will come down and oil prices will stabilize by summer. If companies continue to create jobs, consumer spending will rise faster. That would give the economy a boost by fall.

U.S. manufacturers are seeing more business, according to a separate report on Friday from the Federal Reserve. Factory output rose in March, bolstered in part by a jump in auto production.

One concern is automakers are bracing for some disruptions in the supply of parts from Japan, which is recovering from a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that caused widespread damage.

Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, predicts the economy will grow only 1.8 percent in the January-March period, down from an earlier estimate of above 3 percent. Rising inflation will likely cut consumer spending growth to half its pace in the previous quarter.

Still, rising exports and business purchases of computers and other equipment should keep factories humming, even if consumers pull back. And companies will likely keep hiring. For those reasons, Gault expects economic growth to pick up a little in the April-June quarter, and then rebound to nearly 4 percent in the second half of the year.

Oil has soared 28 percent to about \$109 a barrel since Middle East turmoil spread to Libya in mid-February. If unrest stops spreading and Americans buy less fuel, oil and gas prices could decline.

AP Business Writers Anne D'Innocenzio in New York and Daniel Wagner contributed from Washington to this report.

Japan's TEPCO to use gas to offset nuke power loss

By The Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo Electric Power Co., the world's largest private electricity

company, said Friday it plans to install gas turbines at two thermal power plants to partially offset power shortages caused by the loss of generating capacity at disaster-stricken power plants.

TEPCO, the main power supplier to the Tokyo region, said the new turbines would boost its capacity to between 50 million and 52 million kilowatts, still well below the nearly 60 million kilowatts of power consumed during peak hot weather days last summer.

The company, which is struggling to stabilize conditions in tsunami-flooded reactors at one of its nuclear plants, earlier said it would only be able to provide 46 million kilowatts of capacity.

The new gas turbines will be installed at two of TEPCO's thermal power plants in Chiba prefecture, east of Tokyo, said TEPCO executive vice president Takashi Fujimoto.

Damage from the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and powerful tsunami on March 11 knocked peak power generation capacity down to 31 million kilowatts. The company is gradually restoring capacity at conventional plants, but that will not fully make up for lost generation from disaster-affected nuclear power plants.

About 9 million kilowatts of capacity may be lost forever as the radiation-leaking Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant is likely to be scrapped and the future of another, Fukushima Dai-ni, is uncertain.

The influential business association Nippon Keidanren, is coordinating conservation measures among its members, including the country's largest corporations, helping to reduce demand by as much as 25 percent.

In March, TEPCO imposed limited power rationing to help meet initial shortfalls but suspended the power cuts after finding it was able to meet relatively slack demand due to mild weather and emergency conservation measures such as reduced train schedules.

Murkowski drafts bill on U.S. mineral strategy

Sen. Lisa Murkowski floated draft legislation Friday that would require the government to develop a wide-ranging strategy to ensure the United States has access to essential minerals like rare earths, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Democrats try to revive mine safety bill

Reps. George Miller, D-Calif., and Nick J. Rahall, D-W.V. re-introduced mine safety legislation that failed to gain traction in the House last year after the West Virginia coal mine tragedy, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service makes third attempt to de-list gray wolf

The Fish and Wildlife Service is making its third attempt to cancel federal endangered species protections for the Great Lakes gray wolf, the Minneapolis Star-Tribune reports.

[Read more](#)

Landrieu makes case for using BP fines to help restore Gulf

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., argues in a Politico op-ed for using fines collected from BP for its oil spill to help restore the Gulf of Mexico.

[Read more](#)

Marine Well Containment Co. unveils new spill cap

The industry-formed Marine Well Containment Co. showed off its new spill capping stack, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Texas debates repealing natural gas tax break

A tax credit for unconventional natural gas production in Texas, dating back to the 1980s, is the target of one state lawmaker who calls it an unneeded handout, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

A year after Macondo, impacts still felt along Gulf coast

The biggest offshore oil spill in history continues to harm Gulf of Mexico coastal economies and raises questions about environmental damage, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

China grapples with downsides of economic expansion

Chinese consumers are complaining about inflation brought on by the nation's rapid economic expansion, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Siemens rethinks nuclear ambitions

German engineering giant Siemens is considering whether to abandon its goal of becoming a major player in the nuclear industry, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 16, Washington: EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson 7:30 pm, Washington Convention Center.
- Apr. 18, Houma, La.: House Natural Resources Committee field hearing, "Gulf of Mexico: A Focus on Community Recovery and New Response Technology." Time is CDT. 9:00 am, Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center.
- Apr. 18, Washington: Interior Department Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee holds first meeting. BOEMRE Dir. Bromwich, Sec. Salazar to speak at afternoon session. 9:00 am, U.S. Access Board, 1331 F Street, N.W., Suite 800.

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Monday,
April 18, 2011:

In This E-Mail

EPA proposes new rules on PVC chemical emissions

Oil prices drop, dollar rises

A year after spill, BP on the rebound

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Tepco: Nuclear reactor shutdown could take nine months

Leaked cables show NRC used to promote U.S. nuclear industry

Despite recovery after Macondo, Russian deal weighs on BP

Houston sees growth in offshore safety and consulting businesses

Daybook: Upcoming events

EPA proposes new rules on PVC chemical emissions

By Edward Felker

BU/1149

The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday announced its latest move to tighten air pollution limits, targeting the production of polyvinyl chloride resins used in the manufacture of a wide variety of home and commercial products.

EPA said the proposal will be followed by a separate rule later this year for chemical plants to further limit releases of vinyl chloride, a carcinogen that is particularly dangerous to children, and other air toxics.

EPA said proposed new maximum achievable control technology and generally available control technology standards would reduce emissions of vinyl chloride from the nation's 17 PVC plants. Those plants are owned by eight companies and located in eight states, with 10 in Louisiana and Texas.

The proposal is to be finalized by January 13, 2012. It updates current rules that were issued in 2007 and would replace a 2002 rule that was thrown out by a federal appeals court. EPA said the new rules would cost the industry about \$16 million in new costs and about \$20 million more in annual costs.

The rules were issued as part of a legal settlement reached by EPA with a Louisiana community group, Mossville Environmental Action Now, or MEAN, the Louisiana Environmental Action Network and the Sierra Club. MEAN filed the lawsuit against the 2002 rule.

The release of the proposal coincided with Administrator Lisa Jackson's unveiling in Atlanta of EPA's new Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative.

The program, EPA said Monday, is intended to "build partnerships between government, faith-based and neighborhood organizations to clean up our air, land and water, keep our children and families healthy and work for environmental justice."

Oil prices drop, dollar rises

By Chris Kahn

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil slipped more than 2 percent Monday after Standard & Poor's lowered its long-term outlook for U.S. debt, raising concerns about the economy and expectations of cuts in government spending. Another move by China to slow its booming economy also helped push prices down.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$2.54, or 2.3 percent, to settle at \$107.12 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Gasoline pump prices climbed to a national average of \$3.83 per gallon (about \$1 a liter), according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular has increased 96.8 cents from a year ago. Pump prices are above \$4 per gallon in California, New York, Illinois, Connecticut, Washington

D.C., Hawaii and Alaska.

Economists are watching for signs that high fuel prices are taking a toll on the economy. Industry surveys suggest that drivers are cutting back on gasoline purchases. The combination of stagnant wages and rising food and energy costs has prompted some economists to lower their growth estimates for the economy in the first quarter by half.

A surprise decision by Standard & Poor's Ratings Service to lower its long-term outlook for U.S. debt to "Negative" from "Stable" made a drop in energy consumption more likely, analysts said.

"If the U.S. doesn't get its budget under control, we'll need to raise interest rates," said Phil Flynn, an energy analyst with PFGBest. Higher interest rates will make it tougher for consumers and businesses to raise money. That will slow down the economy and dampen energy demand, Flynn said.

"This is a real wake-up call for the government," he said. "They need to get spending under control."

Oil had been falling since early in the day, following China's announcement over the weekend that its central bank would raise bank reserve requirements for the fourth time this year in an attempt to get inflation under control. The move is expected to hurt energy demand by making it harder for consumers and businesses in China to raise money. China is the world's second largest oil consumer behind the U.S.

The price of oil was also undercut by comments from OPEC officials who said on Sunday that the market is oversupplied with crude and the recent surge in oil prices could drag down the global economic recovery. Saudi Arabia's oil minister said his country cut oil production in March, but will probably raise it again this month.

Also, the dollar rose against the euro and other currencies on Monday. The euro weakened on worries the Greece would default on its debt. Since oil is traded in dollars, a stronger dollar makes it less attractive to buyers with foreign currencies and the price generally falls.

In other Nymex trading for May contracts, heating oil lost 4.14 cents to settle at \$3.1828 per gallon and gasoline futures gave up 3.64 cents to settle at \$3.2528 per gallon. Natural gas lost 6.6 cents to settle at \$4.138 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude lost \$1.84 to settle at \$121.61 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

A year after spill, BP on the rebound

By Harry Weber

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — It's hard to tell that just a year ago BP was reeling from financial havoc and an American public out for blood.

The oil giant at the center of one of the world's biggest environmental crises is making strong profits again, its stock has largely rebounded, and it is paying dividends to shareholders once more. It is also pursuing new ventures from the Arctic to India. It is even angling to explore again in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where it holds more leases than any competitor.

"BP has a critical role to play in meeting the world's ever-growing need for energy," BP chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said at the company's annual meeting in London last week.

While some of this angers Gulf Coast residents, it is a testament to some deft handling of the crisis by the company, which after some major gaffes early on conducted a housecleaning in its executive ranks, adopted a careful communications strategy and assigned an outsider to handle victims' compensation claims.

The company's decision to open its checkbook and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Gulf communities, help out-of-work rig hands and support Gulf research also contributed to the turnaround.

Yet BP is not out of the woods yet.

BP employees could be found criminally negligent for the 206 million gallons of oil the U.S. government says gushed from the company's blown-out well and for the 11 men who died when the Deepwater Horizon rig it was leasing exploded. Hundreds of lawsuits and civil and criminal fines could add billions of dollars to its already staggering liabilities. And the findings of several investigations still under way could further damage its reputation.

BP has estimated that the spill will cost the company at least \$40.9 billion but is hoping to force some of its partners on the doomed rig to assume some of those costs.

There is also lasting damage in the Gulf, including empty hotels, out-of-work oystermen and fears of a badly disrupted underwater ecosystem. And some of those worst hit by the spill scoff at BP's oft-repeated promises to make people whole again.

"I don't know of one person who has come to me and said, 'I've been made whole. I feel good.' Everything is completely negative from everybody," said Louisiana fishing guide Ron Price.

When BP finally managed to cap its runaway well in July and permanently sealed it in September, the bankruptcy talk was reduced to a whisper and the 24-hour-a-day beating the company was taking on television and newspaper

front pages eased up.

By the fall, there was talk that the crisis wasn't as bad as feared and that the Gulf might recover sooner than expected. Then soaring oil prices came to the company's rescue, boosting its bottom line. Now, as Wednesday's anniversary approaches, the oil spill that so riveted the nation's attention is beginning to fade into memory.

For the families of the men killed on the rig, BP's resilience can be downright painful.

"BP has never done anything other than send flowers and three people to Jason's memorial service," said Shelley Anderson, the widow of rig worker Jason Anderson.

BP officials point out that they set aside \$20 billion for a fund that is still processing claims for victims of the disaster, though only \$3.8 billion of it has actually been paid to date. They also still employ cleanup and recovery workers, though far fewer than before.

Company officials also say they are living up to their commitments to restore the region's economy and environment.

"BP has not — and will not — shy away from its responsibilities," CEO Bob Dudley told shareholders at the company's annual meeting, which was marked by scuffles between protesters and security guards, and investor dissent over the performance of several directors.

Digger arrives in Idaho to help with mine rescue

By Associated Press

MULLAN, Idaho (AP) — A remote-control digger has arrived to help rescue workers advance more quickly toward a trapped Idaho silver miner.

But progress Monday may still be slowed by boulder-sized rocks and time-consuming safety work to shore up tunnels from further collapse.

Crews working to reach Larry Marek, 53, have so far dug through 37 feet of earth in the Lucky Friday Mine following the collapse more than a mile underground on Friday.

That's about half the 75-foot-long, 20-foot-wide cave-in area.

The remote mucker can move between one to 3 1/2 yards of rock material at a time, but workers still need to shore up the excavated area behind it with timber.

A spokeswoman with mine owner Hecla said that "timbering" the mine was a time-consuming safety measure.

The roof of the tunnel collapsed about 5:30 p.m. on Friday, trapping Marek. Officials have not had contact with him and don't know his condition. He is a 30-year mining veteran, 12 of those years have been with Hecla.

The digging machine — a front-end loader modified for mining and called a mucker — had been transported inside the mine and will go into operation, allowing workers to work faster and more safely.

"The remote-control mucker has been sent underground and is being reassembled. It is expected to be operational during the day," the company said.

The machine will move material "without needing all the additional ground support to ensure the safety of our rescue teams," the company said.

"In the meantime, rescue crews continue to safely advance and progress on the removal of material," the company said.

Marek and another worker had just finished watering down blasted-out rock and ore when the collapse occurred about 75 feet from the end of the 6,150-foot deep tunnel, according to the company. Marek became trapped but his companion escaped. Family and media reports have identified the other worker as Marek's brother.

Officials say it's unclear if the entire 75-foot section collapsed, or only a portion of it, possibly leaving the miner trapped on the other side.

Hecla said all mining activity has been halted for the rescue effort. Officials said they will focus on how the collapse occurred once the rescue is complete.

The mine employs roughly 275 workers, about 50 of whom were underground in various parts of the mine when the collapse occurred, company spokeswoman Melanie Hennessey said.

On its website, Hecla describes itself as the oldest U.S.-based precious metals mining company in North America and the largest silver producer in the U.S. It is headquartered in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Hecla currently produces silver from two mines, Greens Creek and Lucky Friday, a mine that has been operational since 1942 and is one of the nation's deepest underground mines.

The mine is tucked into the forested mountains of Mullan, a historic mining town of 840 people in Idaho's Panhandle. Like mining areas around the nation and world, it's not immune to accidents, some of them tragic.

Last June, a miner was killed in the Galena Mine in nearby Silverton after a rock slab fell on him.

And in 1972, 91 miners were killed in a terrible fire about 3,700 feet underground inside the Sunshine Mine between Kellogg and Wallace.

Hecla appears to have a good record of health and safety at Lucky Friday.

There have been no fatalities dating back to 2000, according to a Mine Safety and Health Administration database. The federal regulator has cited the mine for violations, but none in the last year specifically tied to the kind of accident that occurred Friday.

In 2009, the company agreed to pay \$177,500 in fines for violating federal clean water laws at Lucky Friday. EPA investigators said the mine exceeded discharge levels for metals such as lead, zinc, cadmium and suspended solids between September 2008 and February 2009. Discharges flow into the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River above the town of Mullan.

Greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 lowest since 1995

The Environmental Protection Agency's annual greenhouse gas inventory shows emissions in 2009 were the lowest since 1995, but overall were still up more than 7 percent since 1990, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

DOE offers \$2.1 billion loan guarantee for Blythe Solar Power Project

The Energy Department said it would offer Solar Trust of America a \$2.1 billion loan guarantee for what would be the nation's largest solar energy farm at Blythe, Calif., Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Oil industry looks to BOEMRE for greater clarity, expertise

The oil industry hopes the new BOEMRE offshore regulator improves its guidance and inspectors, a goal Director Michael Bromwich has embraced as he scours universities for scientists to staff the bureau, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Reid leads delegation to China to see clean energy projects

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is traveling to China with a bipartisan group of nine senators to meet with officials and tour clean energy projects, Politico reports.

[Read more](#)

Budget cuts at EPA will hurt climate agenda, state aid

EPA will see a \$1.6 billion budget cut from the 2011 appropriations law passed last week, which will reduce aid to states to implement greenhouse gas regulations, among other climate cutbacks, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Tepco: Nuclear reactor shutdown could take nine months

As robotic vehicles measured life-threatening radiation inside the Fukushima station, owner Tepco said reactor shutdown operations will take up to nine months, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Leaked cables show NRC used to promote U.S. nuclear industry

Leaked Wikileaks cables reveal attempts by U.S. diplomats to use the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a non-advocacy regulator, to promote American nuclear technology, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Despite recovery after Macondo, Russian deal weighs on BP

BP's comeback from its Gulf of Mexico spill has been sidetracked by its failure

to close the deal to explore in the Russian Arctic, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Houston sees growth in offshore safety and consulting businesses

The new, post-Macondo drilling rules mean new investments in offshore well safety products and services centered in Houston, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 19, Pleasantville, Newton, Prairie City, Iowa: USDA Sec. Vilsack, EPA Admin. Jackson tour Iowa farms and ethanol plants. 8:30 am, Monty Collins' Livestock Farm, Pleasantville; REG Newton, Newton; Gordon Wassenaar's Farm, Prairie City.
- Apr. 19, Washington: Supreme Court oral arguments in American Electric Power v. Connecticut 10:00 am, Supreme Court.
- Apr. 19, Boston: Interior Secretary Ken Salazar makes announcement on Cape Wind offshore wind farm project. 10:30 am, Charlestown Navy Yard.

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Monday,
April 18, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Analysis: Moving the line for compromise

Waxman: Toxins, carcinogens in fracking chemicals need regulation

Supreme Court readies to hear climate nuisance suits

State review finds no new environmental issues with Canadian pipeline

Oil hovers around \$109 as gas prices rise

Robot detects high-radiation inside Japanese nuclear plant

House panel heads to Louisiana for drilling hearing

Administration expands support for biomass

Trump says pressuring OPEC key to gas prices

Obama surprises young climate activists with impromptu meeting

Federal drilling regulator still a work in progress

Gore urges battle with business lobbyists over climate

Where 2012 candidates stand on environment

Debate over natural gas tax break

Shell expects to start drilling off Alaska next year

Rescuers near trapped Idaho miner

Encana eyes as many 3,500 gas well in Wyoming

BU/1150

Fate of Gulf ecosystem still murky

Rising oceans temps stressing fish

Daybook: Upcoming events

Analysis: Moving the line for compromise

By John Solomon

Every speedy vote in the Republican House of Representatives feels like a symbolic gesture these days, posturing perhaps for the 2012 election.

But beyond campaign slogans and ads, the GOP votes are quickly shifting the line for any future compromises with the Senate and White House.

One need only look at the recent budget ideas President Barack Obama offered to see the impact of the GOP onslaught on the fiscal debate.

A year ago, Democrats were reluctant to even discuss slicing billions from federal spending. Today, they are talking trillions. And Obama and the GOP budgets are only about \$1 trillion apart over 10 years on the numbers, albeit miles apart on the way to get there. Still, the line has shifted for any future compromises.

The same is happening in the energy and environment debate.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings' speedy shepherding of legislation on expanding and speeding domestic oil and gas drilling will have a certain effect in the Senate.

If Democrats want to get a post-Gulf spill safety package, they are likely to have to make some concessions on opening up domestic exploration.

And any discussion on achieving a clean energy standard will almost certainly require some concessions on the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory reach to get Republicans and energy-state Democrats on board.

The NAT GAS act, popular in both parties for its emphasis on converting vehicles to cleaner burning natural gas, likewise might also need to address the EPA's recent investigations of possible pollution from hydraulic fracturing. (You can almost hear some Republicans start chanting "Frack, Baby, Frack!")

Democrats and the White House can simply play a game of chicken and roll the dice on doing little more legislatively until voters cast their next ballots in 2012, portraying Republicans as extremists who created gridlock.

If Democrats pursue that strategy and win, they'll tip the horse-trading back to their favor.

If they lose, however, the line for future compromises will have shifted further toward the conservative side with the rapid-fire succession of votes in the House going on now.

Waxman: Toxins, carcinogens in fracking chemicals need regulation

By Edward Felker

Drilling companies use a number of "extremely toxic" chemicals in the hydraulic fracturing process, including some that are regulated by drinking water and clean air laws or linked to cancer, according to an investigation by House Energy and Commerce Democrats.

The investigation was launched by ranking Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman of California last year when he chaired the committee. He sought and obtained data from 14 drilling companies about the chemicals they used in fracturing operations, which force open underground shale formations to release natural gas.

The companies reported injecting some 780 million gallons of fracturing products at well sites from 2005 to 2009, the committee reported.

About 2,500 fracturing products were used that contained 750 chemicals, including lead, the human carcinogen benzene, as well as toluene, xylene, and ethylbenzene, which are all regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The most widely used chemical was methanol, in 342 products, and is also being considered for regulation under the act, noted Waxman in a statement issued Saturday.

The company also reported the injection of unusual components, such as instant coffee and walnut hulls, and others Waxman called "generally harmless and common substances," including salt and citric acid.

The report comes as the Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to study the possible impacts on drinking water from fracturing, which has opened up vast new areas to natural gas production in the northeastern Marcellus Shale and in Texas, the Mountain West, and upper Plains States. Fracturing has also proved controversial in states where it is being used.

"This report shows that these companies are injecting millions of gallons of products that contain potentially hazardous chemicals, including known carcinogens. I urge EPA and (the Energy Department) to make certain that we have strong protections in place to prevent these chemicals from entering drinking water supplies," Waxman said.

He issued the statement and report with Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., and

House Natural Resources ranking member Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

DeGette is the author of the FRAC Act bill, opposed by the gas industry, that would mandate disclosure of fracturing chemicals and regulate their use under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The industry has fought efforts to impose the Safe Drinking Water Act on its fracturing processes, stressing that fracturing takes place far below underground drinking water sources and has not been implicated in the contamination of any of those sources.

Questions have been raised by critics of fracturing about the disclosure of the chemicals used and their disposal after operations are completed. Drilling companies say the mixtures of chemicals, sand and water injected into the formations and partially recovered are either recycled or, depending on their composition, disposed as hazardous wastes or into bodies of water.

DeGette said the responses by the companies, which listed 279 products containing at least one undisclosed proprietary chemical or component, indicated they did not know all of the chemicals they were using.

"Many companies were also unable to even identify some of the chemicals they were using in their own activities, unfortunately underscoring that voluntary industry disclosure is not enough to ensure the economic benefits of natural gas production do not come at the cost of our families' health," she said.

The full report is available. [Read more here.](#)

Supreme Court readies to hear climate nuisance suits

By Mark Sherman

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration and environmental groups generally agree that global warming is a threat that must be dealt with. But they are on opposite sides of a Supreme Court case over the ability of states and groups such as the Audubon Society to sue large electric utilities and force power plants in 20 states to cut their emissions.

The administration is siding with American Electric Power Co. and three other companies in urging the high court to throw out the lawsuit on grounds that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, not a federal court, is the proper authority to make rules about climate change. The justices will hear arguments in the case Tuesday.

The court is taking up a climate change case for the second time in four years. In 2007, the court declared that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. By a 5-4 vote, the justices said the EPA has the authority to regulate those emissions from new cars and trucks under that

landmark law. The same reasoning applies to power plants.

The administration says one reason to end the current suit is that the EPA is considering rules that would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. But the administration also acknowledges that it is not certain that limits will be imposed.

At the same time, Republicans in Congress are leading an effort to strip the EPA of its power to regulate greenhouse gases.

The uncertainty about legislation and regulation is the best reason for allowing the case to proceed, said David Doniger, a lawyer for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which represents Audubon and other private groups dedicated to land conservation.

"This case was always the ultimate backstop," Doniger said, even as he noted that the council would prefer legislation or EPA regulation to court decisions. The suit would end if the EPA does set emission standards for greenhouse gases, he said.

The legal claims advanced by six states, New York City and the land trusts would be pressed only "if all else failed," he said.

When the suit was filed in 2004, it looked like the only way to force action on global warming. The Bush administration and the Republicans in charge of Congress doubted the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

Federal courts long have been active in disputes over pollution. But those cases typically have involved a power plant or sewage treatment plant that was causing some identifiable harm to people, and property downwind or downstream of the polluting plant.

Global warming, by its very name, suggests a more complex problem. The power companies argue that any solution must be comprehensive. No court-ordered change alone would have any effect on climate change, the companies say.

"This is an issue that is of worldwide nature and causation. It's the result of hundreds of years of emissions all over the world," said Ed Comer, vice president and general counsel of the Edison Electric Institute, an industry trade group.

The other defendants in the suit are Cinergy Co., now part of Duke Energy Corp. of North Carolina; Southern Co. Inc. of Georgia; Xcel Energy Inc. of Minnesota; and the federal Tennessee Valley Authority. The TVA is represented by the government and its views do not precisely align with those of other companies.

State review finds no new environmental issues with

Canadian pipeline

By Matthew Daly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Friday that a new environmental study of an oil pipeline from Canada to Texas shows no new issues since a similar report was issued last year.

The report on the proposed \$7 billion, 1,900-mile pipeline, comes as President Barack Obama offered his first public comments on the project, which would carry crude oil extracted from tar sands in western Canada, to refineries in Texas. At a town hall meeting on energy last week, Obama said concerns about the potentially “destructive” nature of the Canadian oil sands need to be answered before his administration decides whether to approve a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

The pipeline planned by Calgary-based TransCanada would travel through six U.S. states carrying what environmental groups call “dirty oil,” because of the intensive energy needed to extract crude from formations of sand, clay and water.

The project would double the capacity of an existing pipeline from Canada, and supporters say it could significantly reduce U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil. The pipeline would travel through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma before reaching refineries in Houston and Port Arthur, Texas.

Obama used the phrase “tar sands” — the term favored by environmentalists — to describe the bitumen deposits embedded in Alberta, Canada sands, but refused to offer an opinion about whether the pipeline should be approved.

“These tar sands, there are some environmental questions about how destructive they are, potentially, what are the dangers there, and we’ve got to examine all those questions,” Obama said at an April 6 town-hall meeting in Pennsylvania.

Obama said he could not comment on the specifics of the Keystone XL pipeline, because the State Department is going through a complicated review process, “and if it looks like I’m putting my fingers on the scale before the science is done, then people may question the merits of the decision later on.”

Still, Obama noted that Canada is one of the largest oil exporters to the United States. “I will make this general point, which is that, first of all, importing oil from countries that are stable and friendly is a good thing,” he said.

Oil hovers around \$109 as gas prices rise

By The Associated Press

Oil prices fell to near \$109 a barrel Monday in Asia as gasoline jumped to average \$4 a gallon in six U.S. states, raising fears higher fuel costs will undermine crude demand.

Benchmark crude for May delivery was down 62 cents at \$109.04 a barrel at late afternoon Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.55 to settle at \$109.66 on Friday.

In London, Brent crude for June delivery was down 52 cents to \$122.93 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

On Sunday, New York became the sixth state to top \$4 a gallon for the average price of gasoline, joining Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii and Illinois, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge. Gasoline in Washington, D.C also averaged above \$4.

The national average for gasoline has increased for 26 straight days, and is now at \$3.83 per gallon, up 29 cents from a month ago.

Some analysts expect rising global fuel costs will eventually hurt crude consumption and likely trigger a drop in oil prices, which are up 29 percent since mid-February. Crude jumped to \$147 in 2008 and gasoline averaged as high as \$4.11 a gallon before the U.S. economy plunged into recession in 2009.

"Springtime gasoline in the U.S. has never cost more," energy consultant The Schork Group said. "Automotive diesel in the U.K. is at an all-time high and the price on the continent is fast approaching levels not seen since the 2008 bubble."

However, energy department figures last week showed a large gasoline supply drop, suggesting higher prices still haven't curbed consumer spending. Traders will be closely watching the latest inventory data scheduled to be released Wednesday.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi said late Sunday the global oil market is oversupplied, dampening hopes OPEC will soon boost its output to help bring down prices, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

Robot detects high-radiation inside Japanese nuclear plant

By Mari Yamaguchi

TOKYO (AP) — Readings Monday from a robot that entered two crippled buildings at Japan's tsunami-flooded nuclear plant for the first time in more than a month displayed a harsh environment still too radioactive for workers to enter.

Nuclear officials said the radiation data for Unit 1 and Unit 3 at the tsunami-

flooded Fukushima Dai-ichi plant — collected by a U.S.-made robot that looks like a drafting lamp on treads — do not alter plans for stabilizing the complex by year's end under a "road map" released by the plant operator Sunday.

With the public growing increasingly frustrated at the slow response to the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crises, parliament grilled Prime Minister Naoto Kan and officials from plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co.

"You should be bowing your head in apology. You clearly have no leadership at all," Masashi Waki, a lawmaker from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, shouted at Kan.

"I am sincerely apologizing for what has happened," Kan said, stressing that the government was doing all it could to handle the unprecedented disasters.

TEPCO's president, Masataka Shimizu, looked visibly ill at ease as lawmakers heckled and taunted him.

Workers have not gone inside the two reactor buildings since the first days after the plant's cooling systems were wrecked by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Hydrogen explosions in both buildings in the first few days destroyed their roofs and littered them with radioactive debris.

The robot, called a Packbot, haltingly entered the two buildings Sunday and took readings for temperature, pressure and radioactivity. More data must be collected and radioactivity must be further reduced before workers are allowed inside, said Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

"It's a harsh environment for humans to work inside," Nishiyama said.

Officials said the radiation findings should not hamper the goal of achieving a cold shutdown of the plant within six to nine months as laid out in a timetable TEPCO announced Sunday. Rather, the new information would help the company in figuring out how to push ahead with the plan.

"We have expected high radioactivity inside the reactor buildings, which was confirmed by data collected by the robot," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said. "Even I had expected high radioactivity in those areas. I'm sure TEPCO and other experts have factored in those figures when they compiled the roadmap."

TEPCO official Takeshi Makigami said the robots must pave the way for workers to be able to re-enter the building.

House panel heads to Louisiana for drilling hearing

The House Natural Resources Committee is heading to Louisiana this week for a field hearing on the Gulf Coast oil spill recovery and new technologies to contain well blowouts, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Administration expands support for biomass

The Departments of Agriculture and Energy are providing up to \$30 million for new research and development in advanced biofuels, bioenergy and "high-value bio-based products" over the next three to four years, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Trump says pressuring OPEC key to gas prices

Donald Trump, the billionaire real estate mogul flirting with a presidential bid, told CNN that solving rising gas prices was as simple as pressuring OPEC to increase production.

[Read more](#)

Obama surprises young climate activists with impromptu meeting

A dozen young climate change activists went to the White House expecting a meeting with low-level staff but instead got an audience with President Barack Obama, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Federal drilling regulator still a work in progress

The federal agency in charge of drilling safety has been remade in the aftermath of the Gulf oil spill but remains a work in progress, The New York Times

reports.

[Read more](#)

Gore urges battle with business lobbyists over climate

Former Vice President Al Gore told young green energy advocates over the weekend that progress on global warming must come from a strong grassroots movement that can counter the oil and coal lobbies, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Where 2012 candidates stand on environment

The National Journal offers a summary of each 2012 presidential candidates' position on the environment in Monday's edition.

[Read more](#)

Debate over natural gas tax break

A debate is raging in Texas over whether to repeal a decades-old natural gas production tax exemption, as supporters predict the move would generate \$2.4 billion in new revenue while opponents claim it will cost \$3 billion in losses, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Shell expects to start drilling off Alaska next year

Royal Dutch Shell expects to start drilling in Alaska's Arctic waters in the summer of 2012 and have in place an oil-containment system specifically designed for the area, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Rescuers near trapped Idaho miner

Rescuers are getting closer to the area in a collapsed tunnel deep inside an Idaho silver mine where a miner is trapped, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

Encana eyes as many 3,500 gas well in Wyoming

A proposed drilling project could more than double to 3,500 the number of gas wells sunk to date in western Wyoming's biggest gas fields, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

Fate of Gulf ecosystem still murky

A year after nearly 200 million gallons of oil, tens of millions of gallons of natural gas and 1.8 million gallons of poorly studied chemical dispersants flowed into the Gulf of Mexico, the fate of the region's ecosystem remains murky, The Washington Post reports.

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Rising oceans temps stressing fish

A new study concludes that rapidly warming ocean temperatures in some parts of the world could be pushing some fish species to the limit, stunting their growth, increasing stress and raising the risk of death, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 18, Houma, La.: House Natural Resources Committee field hearing, "Gulf of Mexico: A Focus on Community Recovery and New Response Technology." Time is CDT. 9:00 am, Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center.

- Apr. 18, Washington: Interior Department Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee holds first meeting. BOEMRE Dir. Bromwich, Sec. Salazar to speak at afternoon session. 9:00 am, U.S. Access Board, 1331 F Street, N.W., Suite 800.

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Tuesday, April 19, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Analysis: An understated report with big repercussions

Salazar to give new details on Cape Wind project

Asian nuclear push pays little attention to quake risks, science

Feds have no worries about radioactivity in fish near Alaska

Obama's popularity dips on economic worries

Vermont nuclear operator sues to keep plant open

Worker dies in fall on inactive Gulf drilling platform

Salazar, Clinton to face drilling questions at Arctic conference

Bromwich reluctantly took BOEMRE appointment

Japan may boost sales tax to pay for reconstruction

A year after gulf spill, Halliburton thrives

Google invests in Oregon wind farm

Beigh wants new federal coordinator for Alaska offshore drilling

Daybook: Upcoming events

Analysis: An understated report with big repercussions

By John Solomon

BV/1151

Its words are stodgy, dry and scientific. Its pages are filled with mind-numbing numbers. And it didn't even make the front page of its author's Web site.

But the Environmental Protection Agency's 16th annual greenhouse gas inventory report issued Monday with little fanfare won't stay insignificant for long.

That's because anti-regulatory conservatives and the business lobby are certain to embrace—and exploit—its primary finding that greenhouse gas emissions dropped more than 6 percent in 2009 to their lowest level since Bill Clinton's first term in office back in 1995.

The fact that the drop was primarily due to the economic recession—a bizarre silver lining to America's hardship—won't matter.

In politics, simple facts that can be reduced to bumper sticker slogans carry the day.

And so the decade-old debate over greenhouse gas emissions and their relationship to climate change will likely be drowned out by a new set of questions tailored made for the young conservative turks who now rule the House and the moderate Democrats from energy-producing states who worry about the survival of their home states' industry.

Why is the government imposing new regulations for a pollution type that is dropping? And might it be better to focus on jobs rather than regulations that might increase costs on business and utility customers?

In a marketplace already stinging from near-record-high gasoline prices, these questions are certain to resonate in the political arena. And they will be repeated often and loudly by those eager to drive a stake through EPA's regulatory agenda and to gain an upper hand in the lead-up to the 2012 election.

That's the reality of politics.

What remains to be seen is whether a report that got little attention even from its authors is used to block any effort to craft a plan that reduces America's reliance on foreign oil, and increases its economic competitiveness.

If it does, this ordinary foil for politics will add to the ever-expanding Greek drama known as America's energy policy.

Salazar to give new details on Cape Wind project

By The Associated Press

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is heading to Boston to reveal more details Tuesday about the progress of what would be the nation's first offshore wind

farm.

Salazar will unveil a final operation and construction plan for the proposed 130-turbine Cape Wind project, an individual briefed on the announcement told The Associated Press.

The individual declined to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the announcement ahead of the event.

The Cape Wind project has been in the works for more than 10 years, but received its final federal permit in January from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, allowing it to move forward to the construction phase.

The project, to be located in Nantucket Sound, still faces hurdles, including legal challenges from opponents who have long battled the project, saying that it would pose a hazard to wildlife in the area.

That's not the only potential problem the project is facing.

Developers of the 468-megawatt project are still shopping for a buyer for about half the power the turbines are expected to generate.

It has already received a commitment from the state's largest utility, National Grid.

The utility estimates that its deal with Cape Wind will cost ratepayers \$1.2 billion above the projected market price of comparable energy by the time it's done. Under the 15-year deal, Cape Wind has agreed to sell power to National Grid starting at 18.7 cents per kilowatt hour, and increasing the price 3.5 percent annually.

Still, National Grid argues that the deal is a good price for the benefits it is receiving, including a uniquely large size for a renewable power project and proximity to an energy-hungry coast.

The state's other large utility, NStar, passed on Cape Wind, instead focusing on energy contracts with three smaller land wind farms that it said are a total of \$111 million below market price.

Cape Wind foes argue the project is an unnecessary burden for ratepayers. They've asked the state Department of Public Utilities to reconsider its approval of the National Grid deal.

A 2008 law requires Massachusetts utilities to obtain increasing amounts of renewable power and calls for 20 percent of their supply to be renewable power by 2025.

Asian nuclear push pays little attention to quake risks,

science

By Margie Mason and Robin McDowell

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) -- The skeleton of what will soon be one of the world's biggest nuclear plants is slowly taking shape along China's southeastern coast -- right on the doorstep of Hong Kong's bustling metropolis. Three other facilities nearby are up and running or under construction.

Like Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant they lie within a few hundred miles (kilometers) of the type of fault known to unleash the largest tsunami-spawning earthquakes.

Called subduction zones, these happen when one tectonic plate is lodged beneath another. And because the so-called Manila Trench hasn't been the source of a huge quake in at least 440 years, some experts say tremendous stresses are building, increasing the chances of a major rupture.

Should that happen, the four plants in southern China, and a fifth perched on Taiwan's southern tip, could be in the path of a towering wave like the one that struck Fukushima.

"We have to assume they'll be hit," said David Yuen, a University of Minnesota professor who has modeled seismic probabilities for the fault. "Maybe not in the next 10 years, but in 50 or 100 years."

Asia, the world's most seismically charged region, is undergoing a nuclear renaissance as it struggles to harness enough power for its huge populations and booming economies.

But China, Taiwan, India and several other countries frantically building coastal facilities have made little use of new science to determine whether these areas are safe. At least 32 plants in operation or under construction in Asia are at risk of one day being hit by a tsunami, nuclear experts and geologists warn.

And even when nations have conducted appropriate seismic hazard assessments, in many cases they have not shared the findings with the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, leaving experts frustrated and in the dark.

"It's pretty astonishing to a lot of us that so little priority is placed on the work we do," said Kerry Sieh of the Earth Observatory of Singapore, who has studied and written about the Manila Trench, where pressure has been building for millions of years.

He is among those who say it is only a matter of time before it snaps.

Feds have no worries about radioactivity in fish near Alaska

By The Associated Press

North Pacific fish are so unlikely to be contaminated by radioactive material from the crippled nuclear plant in Japan that there's no reason to test them, according to federal and state of Alaska health officials.

Dangerous levels of radiation have been reported off the coast from the Fukushima reactor complex. However, a spokeswoman for the federal Food and Drug Administration told the Anchorage Daily News newspaper that the ocean is so huge, and Alaska fisheries so far away, that there is no realistic threat.

Alaska's food safety program manager, Ron Klein of the Department of Environmental Conservation, said the FDA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have demonstrated that Alaskans have no cause for worry.

"Based on the work they're doing, no sampling or monitoring of our fish is necessary," he said.

A little more than a month into the nuclear crisis, Japanese officials believe they have plugged the major leak that allowed tons of water containing highly radioactive isotopes of iodine and cesium to flow into the sea.

The reactors and spent-fuel-rod pools remain unstable, according to Congressional testimony Tuesday by the chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A Japanese official said recently the crisis will continue for "a long time."

Alaska is the nearest U.S. state to Japan. Fish caught by U.S. fishermen in the 200-mile (85-kilometers per liter) economic zone swim even closer. That has prompted some fears, particularly in Europe, that Alaska fish could be contaminated.

Obama's popularity dips on economic worries

A new poll by The Washington Post and ABC News shows President Barack Obama approaching record lows in his popularity ratings, but he still outpaces Republican presidential hopefuls.

[Read more](#)

Vermont nuclear operator sues to keep plant open

The operator of Vermont's only nuclear-power plant sued the state on Monday

in a bid to keep it running past March 2012, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Worker dies in fall on inactive Gulf drilling platform

A worker on an inactive natural gas production platform in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana was killed in a fall Monday, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Salazar, Clinton to face drilling questions at Arctic conference

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are likely to face questions about offshore drilling at a May 12 meeting of the intergovernmental Arctic Council in Greenland, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Bromwich reluctantly took BOEMRE appointment

BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich initially hoped that the White House would choose another appointee to head the former Minerals Management Service, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Japan may boost sales tax to pay for reconstruction

Japanese consumers could pay for post-earthquake reconstruction costs through a boost in the national sales tax, Reuters reports.

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A year after gulf spill, Halliburton thrives

Despite its central role in the Deepwater Horizon blowout, Halliburton has suffered little damage to its business, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Google invests in Oregon wind farm

Google is joining as an investor in General Electric's project to build the world's largest wind farm near Arlington, Oregon, Bloomberg reports.

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Begich wants new federal coordinator for Alaska offshore drilling

Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, is pressing his effort to designate a new federal coordinator to streamline the review of oil and gas drilling projects off the coast of Alaska across several agencies and state and local governments, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 19, Pleasantville, Newton, Prairie City, Iowa: USDA Sec. Vilsack, EPA Admin. Jackson tour Iowa farms and ethanol plants. 8:30 am, Monty Collins' Livestock Farm, Pleasantville; REG Newton, Newton; Gordon Wassenaar's Farm, Prairie City.
- Apr. 19, Washington: Supreme Court oral arguments in American Electric Power v. Connecticut 10:00 am, Supreme Court.
- Apr. 19, Boston: Interior Secretary Ken Salazar makes announcement on Cape Wind offshore wind farm project. 10:30 am, Charlestown Navy Yard.

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Wednesday, April 20, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Analysis: Obama signals it's time to move on from Gulf tragedy
Active but abandoned oil and gas wells raise concern
Pennsylvania wants to end fracking discharges into waterways
NOAA lifts last Deepwater Horizon fishing ban
IAEA chief defends nuclear energy during stop at Cherynobl
Bromwich preparing additional drilling safety rules
Feds slow to add new drilling inspectors
Gulf oil output beginning to slow with administration's policies
Murkowski: Energy bill needs to address production and safety
Federal offshore wind leasing set in motion for areas off New Jersey
IEA chief urges China to reduce energy subsidies
Majority of Americans don't want nuclear power to expand, poll finds
Partisan divide on climate change grows
Browner returning to liberal think tank
Turner, Pickens agree natural gas is bridge fuel, differ on risks
Thousand rush to meet Wednesday deadline for Gulf spill suits
Firms eye floating solar panels for water

BU/1152

Logistical problems slowed Fukushima response

Gulf appears to have recovered quickly, but long term effects unknown

China bracing for summer of energy, coal shortages

Daybook: Upcoming events

Analysis: Obama signals it's time to move on from Gulf tragedy

By Edward Felker

President Barack Obama is marking the first anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy with an effort to shift attention to the nation's other pressing problems.

The commander in chief won't be stopping in the Gulf region devastated a year ago Wednesday by the worst oil spill in American history. Instead, he issued a low-key statement praising the Gulf cleanup workers, touting increased drilling safety and reminding everyone that while the country has "made significant progress, the job isn't done."

In action and words, the president is signaling the time is right to move on from last year's crisis in the Gulf of Mexico. That's why he'll be heading Wednesday to San Francisco for a Facebook-sponsored town hall meeting on his federal deficit reduction plan and fundraisers.

The administration also made clear Tuesday it believes it has enough in its arsenal to beat back charges by Republicans, the oil industry and energy-producing Democrats that he is sitting on his hands while Americans pay \$4 for a gallon of gasoline.

In a town hall meeting in suburban Washington, Obama himself defended his clean energy policy as the smart, if not immediate, way to insulate the nation from future oil price spikes.

Meanwhile, senior Cabinet officials fanned out across the country to meet with biofuel-producing farmers, announce a construction permit for the Cape Wind offshore wind farm, and highlight his support for electric cars.

It was left to Michael Bromwich, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, to talk about the BP spill, and he chose to highlight the quickening pace of offshore permits as well as the administration's intent to put clear drilling rules into place.

Bromwich's speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies was unrelenting in its insinuation that some in the oil and gas lobby, and their political allies on Capitol Hill, would rather win political points than protect the Gulf from another catastrophic spill.

Obama remained above the fray, where he is most comfortable. Advocating a divisive cap-and-trade climate approach was always an uneasy fit for the White House. The more mundane, and less assailable, approach of promoting green domestic energy suits the pragmatic Obama far better.

He is fully aware that he must appear active and engaged about gas prices. But Obama is betting that the energy crisis of 2011 is not a political threat, yet.

Active but abandoned oil and gas wells raise concern

By The Associated Press

More than 3,200 oil and gas wells classified as active lie abandoned beneath the Gulf of Mexico, with no cement plugging to help prevent leaks that could threaten the same waters fouled by last year's BP spill, The Associated Press has learned.

These wells likely pose an even greater environmental threat than the 27,000 wells in the Gulf that have been plugged and classified officially as "permanently abandoned" or "temporarily abandoned." Those sealed wells were first tallied and reported as a major leaking threat in an investigative report by the AP in July.

The unplugged wells haven't been used for at least five years, and there are no plans to restore production on them, according to the federal government. Operators have not been required to plug the wells because their leases have not expired.

As a result, there is little to prevent powerful leaks from pushing to the surface. Even depleted wells can repressurize from work on nearby wells or shifts in oil or gas layers beneath the surface, petroleum engineers say. But no one is watching to make sure that doesn't happen.

The addition of the unused but officially active wells, as documented in a list provided to the AP by federal officials under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, means at least three-fifths of the 50,000 wells ever drilled in the Gulf have been left behind with no routine monitoring for leaks.

The 27,000 decommissioned wells were drilled mostly on federal leases that have now expired. Government rules for expired leases on the sea floor require operators to plug the wells or make plans to reuse them within a year. In its original report, the AP documented how oil and gas companies regularly flouted the rules regarding temporary abandonment, with some wells "temporarily abandoned" since the 1950s.

Rules for unexpired leases are different, and have allowed operators to simply walk away from idle wells. Some of the roughly 3,200 unsealed wells contained

in the latest list were drilled 60 years ago, and most are more than 10 years old.

Federal regulators described idle wells on active leases as a "potential threat" to the environment in a September letter to operators announcing a new program, dubbed "Idle Iron," to plug them within three years. The letter said the program would cover more than 3,000 idle wells but didn't say what kind of wells would be included or whether the wells already contained at least some cement plugging.

The list of specific wells covered by the Idle Iron initiative was provided to the AP by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, which regulates oil and gas leases on federal lands on the sea floor.

BOEMRE refused to provide the list when the AP first requested it in September. The agency said at the time that it first wanted to verify with gas and oil companies that the wells were correctly classified. The AP argued that the FOIA provides access to records as they exist at the time of the request, but the agency still refused to release the material.

In finally providing the list last month, BOEMRE said the wells had been "verified." But several weeks later, a representative of the agency, Eileen Angelico, contacted the AP and said it had mistakenly released the original unverified list.

Pennsylvania wants to end fracking discharges into waterways

By Marc Levy

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Amid criticism from environmentalists and growing concern from scientists, Pennsylvania on Tuesday asked the state's booming natural gas industry to halt disposing of millions of gallons of contaminated drilling wastewater through treatment plants that discharge into rivers and streams.

The plants are ill-equipped to remove pollutants from the wastewater — which is intensely salty and tainted with chemicals. The state Department of Environmental Protection said recent water tests suggest the discharges could harm drinking water supplies and, eventually, human health.

The DEP set a May 19 deadline for drillers to stop bringing the waste to the treatment plants. It did not say how the wastewater should be disposed of in the future.

The announcement was a major change in the state's regulation of gas drilling that has swept Pennsylvania since 2008, when energy companies began swarming the state for the vast riches of the Marcellus Shale formation, the

nation's largest known natural gas reservoir.

It came the same day that an industry group said it now believes drilling wastewater is partly at fault for rising levels of bromide being found in Pittsburgh-area rivers.

Freeing natural gas from the dense shale rock demands the use of millions of gallons of chemical-laden water in a process called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. As the practice as rapidly grown in Pennsylvania, especially in the southwestern corner, the state has scrambled to adapt its regulations.

In other major gas-drilling states, gas drillers injecting the wastewater deep underground into disposal wells. But in Pennsylvania, some drilling wastewater is trucked from drilling sites to sewer authorities and industrial treatment plants, mainly in western Pennsylvania, and discharged into rivers that provide drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people.

Pennsylvania has allowed hundreds of millions of gallons of the partially treated wastewater, largely through at least 15 plants, to be discharged into rivers from which communities draw drinking water. New tests show elevated levels of bromide in western Pennsylvania rivers, the agency said.

"Now is the time to take action to end this practice," acting Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer said in a statement Tuesday.

NOAA lifts last Deepwater Horizon fishing ban

By Edward Felker

The government has re-opened the final section of the Gulf of Mexico closed to fishing by the BP oil spill a year ago, removing the last remaining stigma on the region's seafood.

At the peak of the oil disaster that started a year ago Wednesday with the explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig, a total of 88,522 square miles of federal waters was closed to fishing. The section re-opened Tuesday was just 1,041 square acres, located around the capped Macondo well southeast of Louisiana.

The area was declared safe for fishing by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Food and Drug Administration and Gulf states. It was the last of 12 areas that had been closed to commercial and recreational fishing after the spill.

"I thank fishermen and the public for their patience, and FDA for its support and cooperation throughout this process, while we worked diligently to ensure

the integrity of gulf seafood," NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco said.

NOAA said it conducted tests as recently as April 1 on tuna, swordfish and escolar for oil and chemical dispersants, with none of the samples exhibiting odors or flavors. Chemical testing showed levels of dispersant in the fish at 1,000 times below the lowest level of concern, the agency added.

The announcement by NOAA was among a flurry of actions Tuesday by the Obama administration to promote President Barack Obama's energy agenda, including the approval of an environmental assessment needed to hold an oil and gas lease sale in the western Gulf of Mexico later this year.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., praised the lifting of the fishing ban around the sunken Deepwater Horizon rig as welcome news for the Louisiana fishing industry.

"While many of the waters surrounding Louisiana's coast have been open for some time now, this announcement means that all the waters of the Gulf are open for business," Landrieu said.

IAEA chief defends nuclear energy during stop at Chernobyl

By The Associated Press

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, speaking at the site of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion, says that accident and the Japanese nuclear crisis do not undermine the value of nuclear power.

Yukiya Amano spoke Wednesday at the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. He was accompanied by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Amano says many countries will continue to find nuclear power an important option for energy diversification but that the global community must do its utmost to ensure its safety.

His visit comes just days before the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

Bromwich preparing additional drilling safety rules

Michael Bromwich, the nation's chief drilling regulator, is preparing a new set of major offshore-drilling safety rules that could be released soon, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Feds slow to add new drilling inspectors

Offshore regulators have added only four additional safety inspectors to monitor oil-field operations in the year since the Deepwater Horizon explosion killed 11 workers, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Gulf oil output beginning to slow with administration's policies

One year after the BP oil spill, Gulf of Mexico energy output is on pace to fall 13 percent in 2011 and beginning to show the impact of the Obama administration's 10-month freeze on deep-water drilling, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Murkowski: Energy bill needs to address production and safety

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is urging colleagues to consider energy legislation that expands both domestic production and drilling safety. There are "clear needs to improve the safety of offshore operations and produce more of our own tremendous oil and gas resources," Murkowski writes in an op-ed published Wednesday by Politico.

[Read more](#)

Federal offshore wind leasing set in motion for areas off New Jersey

The Interior Department on Tuesday launched the process to sell offshore leases for wind farms off the coast of New Jersey, New Jersey Newsroom reports.

[Read more](#)

IEA chief urges China to reduce energy subsidies

The head of the International Energy Agency called Wednesday on China to more quickly reduce subsidies on gasoline, diesel and electricity, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Majority of Americans don't want nuclear power to expand, poll finds

A new Washington Post and ABC News poll finds a slim majority of Americans see nuclear power plants as a safe energy source, but nearly two-thirds reject the idea of building new reactors in the United States.

[Read more](#)

Partisan divide on climate change grows

A new study led by a Michigan State University sociologist finds partisan divides on climate change widened greatly during the last decade, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Browner returning to liberal think tank

Former White House climate and energy adviser Carol Browner is rejoining the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank influential on environmental issues, Politico reports.

[Read more](#)

Turner, Pickens agree natural gas is bridge fuel, differ on risks

Billionaires Ted Turner and T. Boone Pickens agreed at a forum Tuesday that

natural gas can power the U.S. while it weans itself off foreign oil but they disagreed about the environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing used during extraction, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Thousand rush to meet Wednesday deadline for Gulf spill suits

Thousands of potential new plaintiffs are rushing to federal court before a Wednesday deadline to make filings preserving the right to sue companies involved in the Gulf oil spill, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Firms eye floating solar panels for water

Several start-up companies see potential for solar panels that float on water, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Logistical problems slowed Fukushima response

Tepco's initial response to the Fukushima nuclear plant outage was marked by confusion and a chief executive who abandoned an emergency command center, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

Gulf appears to have recovered quickly, but long term effects unknown

A year after the Deepwater Horizon blowout, the Gulf of Mexico has recovered in many ways, but signs of damage linger, the Los Angeles Times reports.

[Read more](#)

China bracing for summer of energy, coal shortages

China is bracing for a summer of difficulties ranging from drought to shortages of coal and energy, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 20, Washington: Electric Drive Transportation Association meeting Day 2. Transportation Sec. LaHood to speak at morning plenary. Through Thursday. 8:15 am, Washington Convention Center.
- Apr. 20, Washington: Energy Secretary Steven Chu announces new funding for clean energy innovation. 11:15 am, Via teleconference.

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From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 7:55 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: back up and running on BB/cell

This is the last time we let you go overseas...

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Doane, Margaret; Jones, Andrea; Borchardt, Bill
Cc: Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Sat Apr 02 08:09:31 2011
Subject: back up and running on BB/cell

So, our phone people lured me with the enticement of "try this new blackberry for executives. It can be used anywhere in the world" ... but failed to say ... "if you get it activated." 2 hours of calls later I am back in business. Nap time, briefly.

Eliot
Room 163

BU/1153

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 7:53 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: somewhat handicapped

Are we having fun yet?

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Burnell, Scott; Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Sat Apr 02 06:15:17 2011
Subject: somewhat handicapped

1: cell phone is not working, same with blackberry so for the moment only contact I have is email at hotel.
Waiting to try to call CSC and find someone to help me with phone.

2: wonderful loaner international laptop slower than molassas. Njot easy to work with.

Bitch bitch bitch and don't get me started about susan

BU/1154

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 1:36 PM
To: 'G.Webb@iaea.org'
Subject: Re: Press stuff

Thanks. Your note helped fill in some mental gaps. See you tomorrow.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: G.Webb@iaea.org <G.Webb@iaea.org>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Sun Apr 03 13:27:19 2011
Subject: Re: Press stuff

Monday is the only day you'll be here with organized press activities.

--press are allowed to attend the opening plenary, 10:00-12:30.
--press conference with IAEA DG Amano, about 13:00.
--press conference following Japan side event, time? 21:00?

Also, we'll have an IAEA backdrop set up outside the meeting for any delegation to use at their convenience. It helps to avoid the up-against-the-wall scrum.

I'll be in the bldg by 08:30 or so and can show you around.

And thanks for coming out to Rathaus, a slice of expat life you would have otherwise missed...

Cheers,
Greg

Greg Webb
IAEA Press and Public Information Officer

Sent from Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 07:10 PM
To: WEBB, Greg
Subject: Press stuff

If you have a spare minute can you send me a short list of the date and approximate times of known press opportunities for monday and tuesday?

Thanks, and thanks for calling this afternoon I enjoyed meeting your family. It was fun.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

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From: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 5:18 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Doane, Margaret
Subject: Fw: IAEA Technical Expert Press Briefing April 1, 2011

From Friday evening. This is a summary of the press brief...

From: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
To: Vienna UNVIE Americans - No Internet Addresses; JapanEmbassy, TaskForce; TaskForce-1 - Japan
Sent: Fri Apr 01 18:22:46 2011
Subject: IAEA Technical Expert Press Briefing April 1, 2011

From: Wolfgang Bednarzek <vienna.usmission@gmail.com>
To: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
Sent: Fri Apr 01 18:18:59 2011
Subject: IAEA Technical Expert Press Briefing April 1, 2011

--

Do not reply to this account. For queries, use bednarzekwa@state.gov Thank you.

IAEA Technical Experts Press Briefing on Japan

Denis Flory

Miroslav Lipar

Elena Buglova

Rethy Chhem

David Byron

Iolanda Osvath

Start 16:30 CET

Denis Flory

Overall situation basically unchanged, still very serious. Elaborates on **reactor situation** efforts to pump water in/out Units 1 to 4. Units 5 and 6 remain in cold shut-down. On **radiation monitoring**, restrictions for drinking water remain valid in two locations in Fukushima prefecture for infants. On **food sampling**, 98 samples out of 109 taken between March 19 and 29 of various foodstuff did not detect values exceeding regulation values set by authorities, 13 samples values were exceeding I-131 and Cs-137 thresholds. Ministry of Health indicated in Press Releases that following **restrictions on foodstuff** apply: Fukushima: certain vegetables; Ibaraki: certain vegetables and unprocessed raw milk; two other prefectures: certain vegetables. **Joint FAO-IAEA Mission** has

now completed Mission and presented report to Japanese authorities on 31 March. **IAEA team members** are returning today. Agency will now dispatch two reactor experts to JP to hold discussions from Monday onwards. Objective: exchange views with JP technical experts, future plans to mitigate accident. In addition states, that IAEA has received complementary international data from Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, RUS, Spain, Switzerland, Singapore.

Miroslav Lipar

Elaborates on core integrity, pumping water in/out and between the various reactor and supporting components.

Rethy Chhem

Says 2 IAEA teams were taking measurements, 23 to 58 km from Fukushima. Shows one map of all measurement collection points and approximate values. There is some increase of Cs-137 deposition from yesterday. The IAEA is at the moment following up, how this will evolve. Says NISA examined people and workers, in total over 100.000, and did not detected cases of health risk doses. Restrictions on drinking water are widely lifted, some restrictions remain in place in 4 locations in Fukushima prefecture. In foodstuff I-131, Cs-134 and Cs-137 either not detected or below thresholds. 13 of 111 samples exceeded levels. JP Ministry of Agriculture will intensify soil sampling. Joint FAO/IAEA assessment successfully completed.

Elena Buglova gives a presentation on purpose of Operational Interventional Levels and how they are defined.

Q & A

Oleksyn, AP, for Mr. Chhen, there is some increase in Cs-137 in relation to yesterday.

Chhen, releases of the reactors are ongoing on low levels, if radioactivity is dispersed through the atmosphere. This was in the prefecture of Ibaraki, relatively close to Fukushima.

Don, Yumiuri, you showed us the radius of 20 and 30 km, there were 2 red spots, 100 and 160 mS/h, what were these spots

Andrew, I don't know where exactly this is. There is some very localized contamination. Something close to the 20 km zone, and there are some spots at the 30 and km circle. These areas were already reported to be higher contaminated in the Fukushima prefecture.

Takahashi, NHK, where exactly are these three points?

Andrew, this plot is a measurement of the IAEA field team. I think we started two weeks ago and the measurement points are included until 31st of March. These higher dose rates have been measured in the first week of the accident.

Takahashi, NHK, is there information on the exact name and time.

Flory, we have the gps coordinates, we can provide you with this later

Inaki, Nippon TV, can you point out where Iitate Village is on this map and I would also need some more info on the red zone.

Flory, Iitate measurements are Japanese, not IAEA's, they are therefore not on this map. Iitate is North West of the nuclear power plant.

Buglova This map shows dose rates, I was showing contamination. For this data it should be another interventional level.

Inaudible (JP outlet) litate village, is it necessary to escape for the people?

Flory: we never said that, but we said the Japanese government needed to assess the situation carefully, and the Japanese government has indeed done that. It is their role to take action based on the assessment.

Don, Yomiuri, is there new assessment at litate?

Buglova, we have got several samples in addition. The current number of samples which we have assessed is in the order of ten. Based on this number of samples the average value in terms of Bequerel per m2 is decreasing. It is now within the range of the criteria. It is in line with what I said two days ago, that we need to factor in uncertainties.

Don, is it still above the level?

Buglova, the latest assessment shows that it is actually in range with the IAEA criteria.

Takashi, NHK, is it possible to give us more concrete numbers on this?

Gerhard, so far we have received 15 measurements from litate from 19 to 29, taking into account the radioactive decay the current average deposition is about 7 mBq/m2. This value is lower than what was reported on Wednesday. We got now more samples, it is monitored more intensively, and together with radioactive decay, the situation is improving daily. In 2 days 16 percent, 3 days 25 percent.

Inaki, Nippon TV, the team going to JP now, it seems that they are more a fact finding than an assistance team?

Flory, yes, it is not an assistant team, it is two technical experts who have good knowledge about boiling water reactors. It is to get good information and knowledge about the situation. We will then have a better understanding for understanding the situation and interact with Japanese counterparts. It will also pave the way for Future missions, which will be expert or peer review Missions.

Inaki, will they be going to the Power Plant this time.

Flory, they will first meet experts in Tokyo and depending on conditions they will possibly go to the facility, but we do not know yet.

END 17:33

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 4:08 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Greg Webb's cell number

(b)(6)

Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 3:45 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: i made it here

Understand today's del meeting has been canceled. Tried to call the 240 number below, but I'm not getting through. I'll be at the del mtg tomorrow morning, please call today if you want to discuss options. (b)(6). Haven't made arrangements for anything, as I have no confirmation that a decision has been made about any press events.
Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Sent: Sat Apr 02 19:13:38 2011
Subject: Re: i made it here

Thanks. Slightly embarrassed to say I have had no direct input from the boss about his willingness to participate in any/all press, but will push him. Look forward to meeting you tomorrow.

Presume mark S. Has better intel. Hope to trade notes with him tonight.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Sat Apr 02 13:06:52 2011
Subject: Re: i made it here

I'll be at the del mtg on Sunday at 5. I understand from Mark S. That Jaczko is willing to participate in Fukushima Q and A Monday evening if desired, and available for journalists after national report on Tuesday. If IAEA or Japan ask him to participate Monday evening, he should - focus on Fukushima, let Japan lead, of course. Tuesday would be a stand-up outside Board room after presentation; also possible to do a roundtable at our Mission, but harder logistically, and would be a longer event than a stand-up. Look forward to meeting tomorrow to discuss details, assuming you will be at del meeting. My cell is (b)(6). Feel free to call.
Jennifer
Sent from my BlackBerry.

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Sent: Sat Apr 02 16:51:39 2011
Subject: i made it here

And after a nap am refreshed. I have no clue what the boss wants to do yet. Any chance we'll cross paths Sunday?

Eliot

From: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 2:46 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: press in vienna

Okay. On the credentials issue, we have only a couple of options for today. If you happen to have a jpeg-format passport photo that you can forward by e-mail, we may be able to get the IAEA protocol contact to help us out today. Unless you've turned into James Bond or something, I'm guessing you don't carry this stuff with you.

The best hope for today is for me to accompany you to the main entrance. If the CNS is a big enough gathering the badging office might be manned today, and they will let me take you in with my credentials.

UNVIE can follow up tomorrow with the badging paperwork if we can work this stopgap for today.

See you at 10:00.

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Shaffer, Mark R; Doane, Margaret <Margaret.Doane@nrc.gov>
Cc: Jones, Andrea <Andrea.Jones2@nrc.gov>
Sent: Sun Apr 03 08:34:58 2011
Subject: RE: press in vienna

Mark: clearly I was on the receiving end of a game of "telephone." Let's chat at 10 a.m. I did trade notes with the boss last night and he is amenable to a couple of things.

From: Shaffer, Mark R [mailto:ShafferMr@state.gov]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 1:33 AM
To: Doane, Margaret; Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Jones, Andrea
Subject: Re: press in vienna

Please let me set the record straight here on a few things:

1. Shaffer NEVER TOLD ANYONE that the Chairman would definitively DO ANY PRESS. After my conversation with the Ambassador (see item 2 below) the take away was for the UNVIE press person (Jennifer) to work directly with Eliot on ANY type of press.
2. My conversation with the Ambassador was immediately after NRC sent me a note(s) with the announcements that (a) Chairman cut his trip short, (b) Chairman would not do any press.

Recall that up to that point, Eliot was working directly with Jennifer, and discussing the possibility of, and duration for, a round table on Wednesday morning at UNVIE.

(b)(5)

4 Following the discussion in item 3, above, I had a conversation with Margie where we discussed all of the above. Margie said she (and Eliot, I presume) were going to talk with the Chairman about a few options for press or at the very least mention the Ambassador's conversation with Shaffer.

5. Shaffer told Ambassador and Jennifer that Chairman might be able to do something, but things were still very fast moving and Eliot would need to work directly with Jennifer if something was to be done. Shaffer DID NOT tell UNVIE that Chairman had agreed to do anything.
6. The indication that there was going to be a press event came, verbally, on Friday evening when it was announced during the IAEA Technical Briefing that the details of the Fukushima event were finally worked out. Note verbal (i.e., "letter from IAEA to Missions) was received at 6:30 pm on Friday night.
7. Shaffer immediately scanned the letter and sent it to Margie and Bill Borchardt, also asking for clarification about Chuck Casto's attendance. The letter indicates that a press briefing will be done after the presentations for Member States. I received no feedback on the letter, except from Bill to tell me that Chuck was not coming.
8. There has been no discussion between myself and Jennifer regarding the press briefing on Monday except to let her know Eliot is in town and that they need to work together to see how things are going to shake out. This may have been wishful thinking on her part because she has strong views that if the Chairman doesn't do any press (even a drive-by) it will be a mess.
9. As Margie noted, things have been very fast moving on several issues, but I also have kept pretty good notes, and retained e-mail traffic on all things Fukushima. With the 6 hour time difference and significant delay in folks returning my e-mails, etc. I am surprised things have worked out as well as they have so far.
10. I plan to be at the Bristol Hotel this morning at 10:00 unless I hear from Margie to the contrary.

From: Doane, Margaret <Margaret.Doane@nrc.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
Cc: Shaffer, Mark R; Jones, Andrea <Andrea.Jones2@nrc.gov>
Sent: Sun Apr 03 06:04:33 2011
Subject: Fw: press in vienna

Eliot

Let me clear up some confusion and clarify roles. We've all been moving very fast.

I told Mark the Chairman's schedule would permit the meetings with the press, but that we had to talk with you. From your note, it looks like the press contacts are saying that Mark definitely gave out those times. Not sure whether the press contacts misheard. However, to make it clear, we are relying entirely on you to give the ok for press events. Going forward, if the press contacts here in Vienna say anything different than what your last direction had been, based on anything from us, please feel free to correct them. You're the press boss!

Margie

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

From: Doane, Margaret
To: 'ShafferMr@state.gov' <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Cc: Jones, Andrea
Sent: Sat Apr 02 23:28:39 2011
Subject: Fw: press in vienna

Mark

When you and I talked about press after the Chairman was cutting back his trip you were concerned because that eliminated the round table. That was the first I heard of this concern from Davies. I said it would be possible based on his schedule to do press after the Japan mtg. or after the report. But I made it clear that you needed to check with Eliot to see whether he wanted to do it because at this point the Chairman was saying no press. The point of the discussion was to raise possibilities for you to work with Eliot. That's Eliot's role. Let's make sure that no decisions are made without talking with him.

Eliot's note below suggests that you told the press contacts Jaczko was willing to do press at both times. Please correct that, you and I were just brainstorming since he was shortening his trip and cutting out the round table, and no direction should come from those conversations.

Then there is the note Verbal, which last night you said shows a press event. Please go over this with Eliot. I thought the Monday night press set up by IAEA was for Japan. You said last night it was for all presenters. Please discuss with Eliot how to get out of that press event, if the Chairman wishes.

Margie

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Jaczko, Gregory
Cc: Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan; Marshall, Michael
Sent: Sat Apr 02 15:56:10 2011
Subject: press in vienna

If this message duplicates other conversations you may have had, my apologies. I was unable to connect with Mark Schffer this evening and won't see him until tomorrow. I want to be able to speak with certainty at meetings tomorrow about your desires/intentions with regard to media. I think the schedule is a presidents circa 11 a.m. (5 a.m. EDT) and a delegation meeting at 5 p.m. (11 a.m. EDT)

The mission press person tells me Shaffer reports you are willing to take part in a Fukushima Q and A Monday evening if desired, and available for journalists after the national report on Tuesday. The Tuesday event would be a stand-up outside the Board room after the presentation, sort of like the Russell Rotunda only orders of magnitude bigger. The mission press person says it is possible to do something at the mission with sufficient advance notice. Based on our quick conversation of last Thursday in which you said "nope, ain't doing that" when you had decided you would leave Wednesday, I would encourage only the Tuesday event outside the board room to feed the beast and reinforce our message that we will study the impact on the US system.. It will be a zoo, but shorter to preserve your time. The mission person and I can manage it to cut things off. There's probably a message point about supporting the June IAEA ministerial as well.

Guidance from the horse's mouth gratefully accepted. With that, I will crash and get the sleep I didn't get on the plane. Again, not sure if I am duplicating other conversations you have had, and apologies if that is the case.

Eliot

From: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 1:16 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; 'ShafferMr@state.gov'
Cc: Jones, Andrea
Subject: Re: What is the plan

Let's work it tomorrow with IAEA and Mission press people. I just found this out myself. I've copied Mark Margie

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Sat Apr 02 12:45:19 2011
Subject: Re: What is the plan

10a in the lobby is fine. Since I am not schooled in diplospeak I don't know what a note verbal is, but I hope to heck the boss is ok!

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Doane, Margaret
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Sat Apr 02 12:43:08 2011
Subject: Re: What is the plan

Eliot let's meet at 10:00 am. Is that ok. By the way Mark is telling me that the note verbal indicates a press briefing after the Japan event. I didn't realize this. I hope you did!

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

----- Original Message -----

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Sat Apr 02 12:16:50 2011
Subject: What is the plan

For the morning? I ran into skeen and he said something about an 11am meeting, but unsure if that is something I should attend.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Jones, Andrea
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 9:07 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Eliot, there is a business center where u can print the speech from your webmail account. Im in the business center now, if u want to send me a copy after u tweek, I can bring you a copy.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Loyd, Susan; Doane, Margaret; Marshall, Michael; Jones, Andrea
Subject: Re: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

If I can get this moved over to C-drive on laptop we're good. Can fix 50-mile issue by dropping that pgh and including a reference to our review covering x, yy, z and EP.

Jen: can you paste text into an email message? Would make it easier to get to c-drive working out of webmail.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Schwartzman, Jennifer
To: Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot; Doane, Margaret; Marshall, Michael; Jones, Andrea
Sent: Sat Apr 02 08:28:56 2011
Subject: RE: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Susan,

Please see attached. I incorporated my suggested changes into the actual text.

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 8:27 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Doane, Margaret; Marshall, Michael; Batkin, Joshua; Coggins, Angela; Schwartzman, Jennifer; Jones, Andrea
Subject: Re: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Eliot:

Thanks for the offer. I really appreciate it. I will make changes and get a clean copy to all of you.

Margie:

I will work with the input I have received and if there are additional refinements you want to make you can do that in Vienna. Please just make sure the Chairman has the final remarks on large-font, bullets. Thanks.

S

Sent from an NRC Blackberry

Susan Loyd

(b)(6)

From: Brenner, Eliot

To: Doane, Margaret; Loyd, Susan

Cc: Marshall, Michael; Schwartzman, Jennifer; Jones, Andrea

Sent: Sat Apr 02 06:00:47 2011

Subject: RE: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Just fyi, I am available to assist where I can. Two problems: NRC laptop gives new meaning to term dysfunctional, and for the moment my blackberry/phone service is dead. Trying to find someone in the tech arena back in DC to help me work through that.

From: Doane, Margaret

Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 5:58 AM

To: Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot

Cc: Marshall, Michael; Schwartzman, Jennifer; Jones, Andrea

Subject: Re: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Susan,

I know that everyone has a lot on their plate. I want to work together to make this a success. I'm very concerned with getting this presentation out of process and then missing key insights. This is a 10-15 minute presentation. It is not a bilat or meeting for which OIP produces talking points.

To me this needs to continue to benefit from the normal Chmn. speech writing process. OIP can give an international perspective, but as the Chairman has been doing many presentations on this topic, which we were neither present nor involved, there is good reason to keep it under the Chmn's speech writing arm for consistency.

At the same time we're happy to help. If you guys agree with Jen's suggestion, please suggest edits or we can suggest edits. I showed Jen's insights to Eliot. He'd like to see them written, but generally he agrees. Definitely the presentation needs to have an international tone.

I don't have the text it didn't come through, but I'd like to see the message that we intend to work with the international community to share insights, etc. on lessons learned, if that's not covered. We can print out a new version in Vienna. But I'd like to get the text to Michael for the Chmn. to read on the plane.

Thanks,
Margie

Sent from an NRC Blackberry

Margaret Doane

From: Loyd, Susan

To: Doane, Margaret; Brenner, Eliot

Cc: Marshall, Michael

Sent: Fri Apr 01 16:29:59 2011

Subject: RE: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Margie:

I am not aware that he is giving an actual speech?! Here are the brief remarks I have prepared (about 7 min), and he may need to add or subtract as appropriate, given how the event evolves. Am not sure about including the paragraph

on the 50 mile evacuation, although that is sure to be questioned....I thought he may as well own that right up front and explain the rationale. You may think otherwise.

These are largely drawn from the Congressional testimonies I prepared for him over the past two weeks, so the language is somewhat vetted already.

Susan

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:03 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan
Cc: Marshall, Michael
Subject: Re: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Who is writing his speech for Mon. evening?

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Margaret Doane

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Loyd, Susan; Doane, Margaret
Sent: Fri Apr 01 15:15:53 2011
Subject: RE: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman
Thanks. I also grabbed the press release on the task force to steal from

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Doane, Margaret
Subject: DRAFT Remarks for Chairman

Eliot and Margie:

I am attaching some remarks I have drafted that the Chairman could use if he ends up being asked to speak briefly at a press event or a Japan-related event. These are based on the Congressional testimonies I drafted for him, so the language is pretty well vetted. He could add/subtract comments as appropriate, as plans evolve. It should be about 7 minutes.

I have circulated these to a couple of our staff here, but don't know if I'll get feedback or not. This is an FYI. Have a good trip!
Susan

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

TALKING POINTS FOR CNS MONDAY MEETING RE: JAPAN

I would like to reiterate my condolences to all those who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Our hearts go out to all who have been dealing with the aftermath of these natural disasters, and we are mindful of the long and difficult road they will face in recovering. We know that the people of Japan are resilient and strong, and we have every confidence that they will come through this terrible time and move forward, with resolve, to rebuild their vibrant country.

I made a brief visit to Japan last week. I wanted to convey a message of support and cooperation to our Japanese counterparts there and to assess the ongoing situation. I also met with senior Japanese government and TEPCO officials, and consulted with a team of experts from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission who went to Japan as part of our assistance effort.

NRC Response to Japan Events

I'd like to take a few minutes to address the response of the NRC to the tragic events in Japan, and then to briefly describe how we plan to proceed.

On Friday, March 11, when the earthquake and tsunami struck, the NRC's headquarters Operations Center began operating on a 24-hour basis to monitor and analyze events at nuclear power plants in Japan. At the request of the Japanese government, and through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the NRC sent a team of its technical experts to provide on-the-ground support, and we have been in continual contact with them since that time. And, within the United States, the NRC has been working closely with other Federal agencies as part of our government's response to the situation.

Shortly after 4:00 AM (Washington, DC time) on Friday, March 11th, the NRC Emergency Operations Center made the first telephone call to inform NRC management of the

earthquake and the potential impact on U.S. plants. We went into monitoring mode at our Emergency Operations Center, and the NRC's first concern was possible impacts of the tsunami on U.S. plants and radioactive materials on the West Coast, and in Hawaii, Alaska, and U.S. Territories in the Pacific.

We were in communication with our licensees and our resident inspectors at Diablo Canyon Power Plant and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California, and the Radiation Control Program Directors for California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii.

On that same day, we began interactions with our Japanese regulatory counterparts and dispatched two experts to Japan to help at the embassy in Tokyo.

By Monday, March 14, we had dispatched a total of 11 NRC staff to Japan. We have subsequently rotated in additional staff to continue on-the-ground assistance in Japan. The areas of focus for this team are: 1) to assist the Japanese government and respond to requests from our Japanese regulatory counterparts; 2) to support the U.S. Ambassador and the U.S. government assistance effort.

On Wednesday, March 16, we collaborated with other U.S. government agencies and decided to advise American citizens to evacuate within a 50-mile range around the plant. We believed this decision was a prudent course of action, and would be consistent with what we would do in a similar situation in the United States. This evacuation range was predicated on the information that we had available at the time, which indicated the possibility that reactor cores and spent fuel pools may have been compromised.

Comment [J1]: Margie and Eliot, this was the paragraph that I hesitated on.

We have been working with an extensive range of stakeholders regarding the Japan situation, including the White House, Congressional staff, our state regulatory counterparts, a number of other federal agencies, and the international regulatory bodies around the world.

Steps Already Taken

The NRC's program of continuous improvement in the future will include lessons learned from the events in Japan. We already have begun enhancing inspection activities through temporary instructions to our inspection staff, including the resident inspectors and the inspectors in our four Regional offices.

We've also issued an information notice to licensees to make them aware of activities they should undertake to verify that their capabilities to mitigate conditions due to severe accidents—including the loss of significant operational and safety systems—are in effect and operational. Specific conditions include a total loss of electric power, flooding, and damage from seismic events.

On their own initiative, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) issued a Level I Event Report (highest level) to its members on March 15, identifying four actions requiring written responses. Those include walkdowns and verifications of capabilities to address large fires and explosions; severe accident management guidelines; mitigation of station blackout conditions; internal and external flooding, and fire and flooding events that could be impacted by a concurrent seismic event.

NRC Plans Moving Forward

While we are confident about the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants, our regulatory agency has a responsibility to the American people to undertake a systematic and methodical review of the safety of our domestic facilities, in light of the natural disaster and the resulting nuclear situation in Japan. Examining all available information is an essential part of that effort.

On March 21, my fellow Commissioners and I established a senior level task force to conduct a comprehensive review of our processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make improvements to our regulatory system.

This review will be conducted in a short-term and a longer-term timeframe. The short-term review has already begun, and will identify potential or preliminary near-term operational or regulatory issues. A longer-term review will begin as soon as we have sufficient information from Japan. That review will be completed in six months from the beginning of the evaluation. The task force's reports will be publicly available.

The task force will evaluate all technical and policy issues related to the event to identify additional potential research, generic issues, changes to the reactor oversight process, rulemakings, and adjustments to the regulatory framework that should be pursued by the NRC. We also expect to evaluate potential interagency issues that may involve multiple U.S. Government agencies, such as emergency preparedness. We expect to seek input from all key stakeholders during this process.

Based on what we learn in our review, we will take all of the appropriate actions that are necessary to ensure the continuing safety of the American people.

We will also continue to communicate closely with our regulatory counterparts throughout this process. As we navigate lessons-learned efforts in the months ahead, international cooperation takes on new importance. The IAEA has a significant role to play in facilitating information-sharing among countries as we undertake this process. To that end, we commend Director General Amano's announcement of the Agency's intention to host a ministerial-level conference in June. We are also pleased to support the IAEA as it works to address the events at Fukushima into its activities in various technical disciplines, as well as continuing its work in areas that have already been identified as nuclear safety and security priorities.

Over the next few days, contracting parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety will have the opportunity to present information on their nuclear safety programs and receive feedback from their counterparts. This review process provides us with an important venue to

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address the events in Japan and begin to formulate plans for short- and long-term cooperation. But in addition, it continues to serve a critical purpose in generally advancing nuclear safety worldwide. We are pleased to be part of this process.

We commend the IAEA staff for its hard work in preparing for the Convention review meeting and continuing to facilitate the provision of assistance to the Japanese people. I appreciate the opportunity to address you this evening.

TALKING POINTS FOR CNS MONDAY MEETING RE: JAPAN

I would like to reiterate my condolences to all those who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Our hearts go out to all who have been dealing with the aftermath of these natural disasters, and we are mindful of the long and difficult road they will face in recovering. We know that the people of Japan are resilient and strong, and we have every confidence that they will come through this terrible time and move forward, with resolve, to rebuild their vibrant country.

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We have been working with an extensive range of stakeholders regarding the Japan situation, including the White House, Congressional staff, our state regulatory counterparts, a number of other federal agencies, and the international regulatory bodies around the world.

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Talking Points for CNS Monday Meeting re: Japan

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From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:55 PM
To: Marshall, Michael; Doane, Margaret; Jones, Andrea; Schwartzman, Jennifer; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: QUESTION: Talking Points for Japan Session

(b)(5)

Susan

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Susan Loyd

(b)(6)

From: Schwartzman, Jennifer
To: Marshall, Michael
Cc: Doane, Margaret; Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan; Montes, David; Jones, Andrea
Sent: Fri Apr 01 19:40:04 2011
Subject: RE: QUESTION: Talking Points for Japan Session

All,

(b)(5)

Margie and Andrea Jones will be the two OIP representatives on the ground in Vienna. I am backstopping from Washington and providing support in whatever ways are most useful to the team in Vienna, including things like this where they are either in the air or asleep for the night. So please include all three of us on anything that you'd like OIP to review.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!
Jen

From: Marshall, Michael
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Schwartzman, Jennifer
Cc: Doane, Margaret; Brenner, Eliot; Loyd, Susan; Montes, David
Subject: FW: QUESTION: Talking Points for Japan Session

Hello Jenn,

Attached is the email that I sent earlier in the day to Margie. Also, attached is a set of talking points that Susan started preparing, just in case.

Please, read over the attached and send any comments or suggested changes to Susan Lloyd. I believe Susan sent an earlier draft to Margie and Eliot.

Susan and David, Jenn has volunteered to be the staff point of contact for this effort. In addition to being the OIP person responsible for IAEA, she has been working regularly in the op center to support monitoring of events in Japan.

Michael L. Marshall, Jr.
Policy Advisor for Reactors
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Phone: 301-415-1750
Email: michael.marshall@nrc.gov

From: Marshall, Michael
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:33 PM
To: Doane, Margaret
Cc: Loyd, Susan; Montes, David
Subject: QUESTION: Talking Points for Japan Session

Margie,

Typically, Susan and David in the Chairman's office review and edit talking points prepared for the Chairman. Do you have a estimated time that the talking point being prepared by the staff would be ready and a point of contact for us to contact, if necessary?

I would like to make sure Susan and David are tied into this effort.

Michael L. Marshall, Jr.
Policy Advisor for Reactors
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Phone: 301-415-1750
Email: michael.marshall@nrc.gov

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of
EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:15 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

x

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Friday,
April 1, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Obama warns GOP that recovery at stake in budget talks

Reid vows to block environmental riders in final budget bill

Interior issues eighth deepwater drilling permit

Unionized mine workers rally for public employees

Alaska, industry fight over oil taxes

U.S. concrete pumps sent to Japan to help nuclear crisis

Feds study ancient coral near site of Gulf oil spill

Manchin: As many as 15 Senate Democrats would vote for EPA restrictions

State opposition to EPA climate rules growing

At least one reactor core is damaged, Chu says

Boehner, Republicans insist no deal yet on spending cuts

Bromwich wants Transocean to push subpoenaed employees to testify

Manufacturing pace quickens as economy recovers

GE may escape liability in Japan nuclear plant failure

NYT: Freeing America from foreign oil dependency could be traumatic

Daybook: Upcoming events

Obama warns GOP that recovery at stake in budget talks

By Edward Felker

President Barack Obama said Friday the recent growth in jobs is at stake if Republicans do not compromise on the federal budget.

The short-term spending measure that funds the government expires April 8, and Obama said a breakdown in talks over a final 2011 budget would harm job growth.

"Given the encouraging news we received today on jobs, it would be the height of irresponsibility to halt our economic momentum because of the same old Washington politics. That's not what we need," he said at a United Parcel Service center in Landover, Md.

Obama made the remarks after unveiling the latest plank of his energy independence platform, the Clean Fleets Partnership, in which the federal government will provide technology assistance and research to large companies willing to convert their fleets to alternative fuels or electricity.

"With this partnership, we'll help make sure those vehicles are energy efficient, so we can cut the amount of pollution they pump into the air, cut the amount of gasoline they need to fill a tank, cut the amounts of oil America imports from abroad," Obama said.

He is to continue touting energy independence next Wednesday in Philadelphia, with an energy town hall at Spain-based Gamesa Technology Corp.'s wind turbine blade manufacturing plant, the White House said.

The unemployment rate in March dropped to an estimated 8.8 percent, the lowest in two years, based on the addition of 216,000 new jobs. It was the latest good news for Obama from the jobs front and comes as he and congressional Democrats seek to fend off Republican proposals to cut government spending.

Talks between the parties on Capitol Hill have yielded only a rough deal to cut about \$33 billion from current spending levels, but lawmakers have cautioned that many details remain unresolved and that the amount could change. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Friday that no deal has been reached.

Among the pending issues are 19 provisions in the House Republicans' spending bill that would restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and impose other pollution rules.

Reid vows to block environmental riders in final budget bill

By David Espo

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic leader of the Senate vowed Friday that any compromise on a government-wide spending bill won't include GOP proposals blocking the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing new rules on greenhouse gases or regulations on a host of other issues.

"Neither the White House or the Senate leaders is going to accept any EPA riders," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., in a conference call with reporters.

Reid was referring to a raft of Republican policy provisions attached to a House-passed government-wide funding bill currently being negotiated in hopes of avoiding a government shutdown next weekend. In addition to blocking new regulations on greenhouse gases, such riders include language blocking EPA plans to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, and to close down mountaintop mines the agency believes will cause too much water pollution.

That was a reversal from comments Reid made Tuesday in which he signaled flexibility on riders, though he would not say which one.

Reid's comments came two days after The Associated Press reported that the White House was signaling in private meetings with lawmakers that some Republican proposals on the EPA's regulatory powers would have to make it into the final bill. The lawmaker providing the information insisted on anonymity because the discussions were private. Reid himself had signaled flexibility. Taken together, the revelations ignited a firestorm among environmental activists.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, who's the leading negotiator for Republicans, has insisted publicly and privately that some GOP policy prescriptions will have to make it into the final bill.

Friday's announcement promises to make it far more difficult to reach final agreement on the spending bill, required to fund the government through the end of September and avoid a partial shutdown next weekend.

Interior issues eighth deepwater drilling permit

By Edward Felker

The Interior Department on Friday issued its eighth permit for a deepwater Gulf of Mexico oil well, to Italian oil major Eni, under the new safety rules imposed after the Deepwater Horizon blowout.

The permit is the latest by the department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement since Feb. 17, when it issued its first post-Deepwater approval based on the industry's two new underwater spill containment systems.

The bureau said Eni will rely on the Helix Well Containment Group's system on the sidetrack well, located about 57 miles off the Louisiana coastline. The company had begun preparing to drill at the site when the department imposed a drilling moratorium last year.

"The progress in permitting deepwater drilling is directly related to industry's ability to meet and satisfy the enhanced safety requirements associated with deepwater drilling, including the capability to contain a deepwater loss of well control and blowout," said BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich in a statement.

Unionized mine workers rally for public employees

By Vicki Smith

WAYNESBURG, Pa. (AP) — Thousands of union coal miners and supporters from several states tried to fuel an uprising in southwestern Pennsylvania on Friday, proclaiming themselves ready to mobilize for the war they say is being waged on organized labor in the United States.

"There's a bad, bad wind coming out of the west, and it's up to us to stop it at the doors," said Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale as snow whipped into the metal bleachers at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

Like nearly a dozen other speakers from several national unions, Bloomingdale urged miners decked mostly in camouflage to prepare for battle, calling unions the last line of defense for the American middle class.

"We've got a fight ahead of us, and it's not going to be won in Harrisburg. It's not going to be won in Charleston," he said, a nod to the many West Virginians in the crowd. "It's going to be won right here in the counties."

The rally, which began with a nearly 1.5-mile march along Route 21, is one of the first outside the states where lawmakers are already battling over collective bargaining rights.

Alaska, industry fight over oil taxes

By Becky Bohrer

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A high-stakes political battle is being waged in Alaska over whether to cut oil production taxes, an issue that could determine whether the trans-Alaska pipeline keeps pumping billions of dollars into the state's coffers.

On one side are Gov. Sean Parnell, top House Republicans and the oil industry, who argue that the current tax structure is stifling investment and must be changed to boost oil production and avert a now-looming shutdown of the

pipeline that carries at least 10 percent of the nation's crude oil production, on average.

On the other side are House Democrats and leading senators, who say the Parnell administration hasn't justified the need for tax cuts and credits that could cost up to \$2 billion a year, and they question what — if anything — the state will get in return.

Companies have not committed to any new investments if the bill is passed but have said they see the proposal as a step toward making Alaska more hospitable to business.

Both sides are deeply entrenched, with the Legislature scheduled to adjourn in just over two weeks.

Parnell told The Associated Press on Thursday he has no plan to call a special session. If a bill fails to pass, he said he'll view that as the Legislature consigning Alaska "to a future of declining oil production" and have no choice but to rein in spending on the capital budget — which traditionally includes projects for legislators' districts — to try to conserve the state's reserves.

The House voted 22-16 late Thursday to advance a tax-cut bill to the Senate, where leaders have expressed skepticism with Parnell's plan. The Democratic minority leader asked that the vote be reconsidered, likely Friday, a move that could shift the vote tally.

U.S. concrete pumps sent to Japan to help nuclear crisis

By Jeff Martin

ATLANTA (AP) — Two gigantic concrete pumps — described as the largest such equipment in the world — will soon be on their way to join the machinery being used to pour water on damaged reactors in Japan's nuclear crisis, company officials said Thursday.

The two machines are normally used to spray concrete for new skyscrapers, bridges and other massive construction projects.

The machines are now being retrofitted in South Carolina and California. That will allow them to spray water instead of concrete on the nuclear reactors, said Kelly Blicke, a spokeswoman at Putzmeister America Inc. in Wisconsin. The German firm manufactured the equipment.

Initially, the machines would be used to shoot water on the reactor, Blicke says.

But if a decision is made to encase a reactor in concrete — similar to a method used in the 1986 Chernobyl disaster — the machines would be capable of doing

that as well, Blickle said.

The firm used its machines to entomb the Chernobyl site in concrete, and Blickle says it already has some equipment helping to shoot water at the site of the Japanese disaster.

However, those pumps are not as large as the two being prepared to be shipped to Japan in April. Each one weighs about 190,000 pounds (86,000 kilograms), and their booms can reach 227 feet (69 meters) — farther than any of the booms now being used to spray water on the Japanese reactors, Blickle says.

“They will be able to direct the water to the source of the highest radiation,” says Jerry Ashmore, president of Ashmore Concrete Contractors Inc. of Augusta, Georgia.

Ashmore’s company has used one of the two machines at the federal government’s Savannah River site along the Georgia-South Carolina border.

Feds study ancient coral near site of Gulf oil spill

By Cain Burdeau

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Federal scientists say they have dated coral living near the site of the busted BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico at 2,000 years old.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Wednesday it had determined the age of the black coral in the Gulf for the first time. Scientists had been studying the ancient slow-growing corals before BP’s well blew out on April 20, 2010. The corals were found about 21 miles (34 kilometers) northeast of the BP well living 1,000 feet (305 meters) below the surface of the Gulf.

“They’re extremely old and extremely slow-growing,” said Nancy Prouty, a USGS scientist. “And there are big questions about their vulnerability and their ability for recovery.”

Black corals feed on organic matter sinking to the sea floor and it could take decades, or even centuries, to recover from “a disturbance to these ecosystems,” Prouty said.

She said scientists were looking at whether the ancient coral had been damaged by the BP oil spill, but the damage assessment had not been completed.

The location of the black coral is important because computer models and research cruises have mapped much of the deepwater oil moving to the southwest of the BP well, away from the black coral colony. Scientists have found dead coral southwest of the well.

However, Prouty said the surface oil slick was over the black coral colony during

the spill.

BP's well leaked more than 200 million gallons of oil after the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers.

Manchin: As many as 15 Senate Democrats would vote for EPA restrictions

Freshman Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., said on a home-state radio program that as many as 15 Senate Democrats favor one or more of the proposed amendments that would ban or delay EPA greenhouse gas rules, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

State opposition to EPA climate rules growing

Already 22 states have adopted or are considering resolutions opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's regulation of greenhouse emissions and other initiatives, ClimateWire reports.

[Read more](#)

At least one reactor core is damaged, Chu says

Energy Secretary Steven Chu told reporters that at least two of the Fukushima station reactors have suffered damage, though the spent fuel pools appear to be filled with water, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Boehner, Republicans insist no deal yet on spending cuts

House Speaker John Boehner and House Republicans insisted again Friday that no deal has been struck on fiscal 2011 spending cuts, Politico reports.

[Read more](#)

Bromwich wants Transocean to push subpoenaed employees to testify

In a letter to Transocean, the nation's chief drilling regulator Michael Bromwich said the absence of subpoenaed employees at next week's government hearings into the Macondo spill could affect the company's standing with the Interior Department, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

The New York Times reports that the two Transocean employees continue to resist the inquiry by the Interior Department and the Coast Guard.

[Read more](#)

Manufacturing pace quickens as economy recovers

Despite the industry's complaints that the Obama administration is imposing too many pollution rules, manufacturing is continuing to expand at its fastest rate in seven years, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

GE may escape liability in Japan nuclear plant failure

General Electric has not been sued yet in connection with the containment failures at its reactors at the Fukushima plant in Japan, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Meanwhile, plant owner Tepco is offering the equivalent of \$5,000 per day to workers willing to perform tasks in highly radioactive areas of the plant, Reuters also reports.

[Read more](#)

NYT: Freeing America from foreign oil dependency could be traumatic

The path to freeing Americans from foreign oil dependence as President Barack Obama has proposed could well be dirty, expensive and politically explosive, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 4, Washington: House Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on China energy portfolio and impacts on the U.S. economy. 3:00 pm, Rayburn 2322.
- Apr. 4, Washington: National Association of State Energy Officials briefing, "State Energy Programs and Their Economic Impacts." 3:30 pm, Rayburn 2212.

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From: Rini, Brett
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 6:06 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Cc: RidsOpaMail Resource
Subject: OPA SPO Input from RES
Attachments: OPA final.doc

Good afternoon,

Please find attached RES's Mid-Year Senior Performance Official Assessment for your office. We do not see the need for a meeting but be willing to hold one if you think it is necessary. Please contact Shirley Flory at 301-251-7400 if you would like to set up a meeting.

Regards,

Brett A. Rini
Technical Assistant
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(301)251-7615
Brett.Rini@nrc.gov

BU/1164

**APPENDIX B - Primary and Secondary Assessment of Offices
FY11 Mid-Year**

Select One:

PRIMARY ASSESSMENT OF _____ (office) by _____ (office)

SECONDARY ASSESSMENT OF _____ OPA _____ (office) by _____ RES _____ (office)

Examples of items for assessment:

- Include high-level, significant remarks. Issues identified should be significant and indicative of performance or trends, not isolated events;
- Should span significant areas (i.e., establishing a new office, rulemaking, Commission initiatives, Chairman papers, acquisition planning and execution);
- Reflect interdependence/coordination between the respective offices; and
- Identify any areas where one office impacts another office in meeting its performance measure/metrics.

Supporting Remarks: *(Remarks should be specific)*

- Provided excellent support for public affairs activities for "Analysis of Cancer Risk around Nuclear Power Facilities," fire protection media inquiries, and SOARCA projects.
- Provided valuable feedback and timely review of NUREG-1925 and the RES Brochure. For both documents, the support aided in expediting publication.
- Provided valuable support to agency response to Japanese earthquake event by responding to the media, and other interested parties, and by compiling talking points and issuing press releases.

Areas for Improvement: *(Remarks should be specific and related to areas with a significant impact on the accomplishment of major milestones or your office's program objectives that have been addressed during periodic coordination discussions.)*

- None

In addition, Secondary Office Assessments complete below:

Means and Frequency of Interoffice Communications: *(i.e., quarterly or periodic coordination meetings; teleconferences, etc.)*

- Periodic coordination via meetings or teleconferences on projects such as the development of NUREG-1925.

From: Tracy, Tennille <Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 5:20 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Chairman's travels to Japan

Thanks. I'll follow up Monday to see if his office has any more details. Cheers, t

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Tracy, Tennille; Burnell, Scott
Subject: Re: Chairman's travels to Japan

If there was a written schedule I never saw it. We can ask his office monday. He left satty nite at 10 and changed on london for tokyo, arriving about 930am monday tokyo time. He stayed 24 hrs and 35 mins or something like that, then left tuesday AM and arrived tuesdy about 10am EDT.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Tracy, Tennille <Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com>
To: Burnell, Scott; Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Fri Apr 01 16:44:02 2011
Subject: RE: Chairman's travels to Japan

Okay. Enjoy weekend, t

From: Burnell, Scott [mailto:Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:42 PM
To: Tracy, Tennille; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Chairman's travels to Japan

Hi Tennille;

Eliot's traveling himself at the moment. We don't have any details on his schedule, sorry.

Scott

From: Tracy, Tennille [mailto:Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:40 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott
Subject: Chairman's travels to Japan

BU/1165

Hi. Editors here are asking me to FOIA documents related to the chairman's recent travels to Japan - including details on who he met with and when. Before I did that, I was wondering if it was possible to just get that from you guys and avoid the FOIA process. Do you guys have his travel schedule? And, if so, would it be possible to send it over the next few days?

Many thanks, t

Tennille Tracy

Dow Jones Newswires | Wall Street Journal

Office: 202.862.6619 | Cell: (b)(6)

1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington D.C., 20036

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:56 PM
To: Harrington, Holly; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Should I turn today's press release on the short-term review into a blog post?

Yep
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Harrington, Holly
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Fri Apr 01 16:36:33 2011
Subject: Should I turn today's press release on the short-term review into a blog post?

Can do this for Monday, with Eliot's byline . . .

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:41 PM
To: Caroline Cooper
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: any time today?

Hi Caroline;

Perhaps we'll have time to talk Monday. We might work something with the upcoming Japan-related meetings, but our Operations Center is still essential staff only. Thanks.

Scott

From: Caroline Cooper [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:33 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: Re: any time today?

ok, hopefully Monday?

Is there anything we can shoot at the NRC to show how federal regulators are responding, ie meetings in the emergency room, etc?

On Fri, Apr 1, 2011 at 12:33 PM, Burnell, Scott <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov> wrote:

Unlikely today, sorry!!!

From: Caroline Cooper [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:32 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: any time today?

--
Caroline N. Cooper
Producer, "Dan Rather Reports"
Washington, DC
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
--

BU/1167

Caroline N. Cooper
Producer, "Dan Rather Reports"
Washington, DC

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

News

4 new results for **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

NRC: No Environmental Risks From Extending PSEG's NJ Nuclear Operations

NASDAQ

NEW YORK -(Dow Jones)- The US **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** has determined that keeping the second-largest US nuclear-power generating facility, located in southern New Jersey, open for an additional 20 years wouldn't pose an environmental risk. ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Nuclear industry's other big hurdle: finance

MarketWatch

Including the two front-runner nuclear plant projects from Southern Co. and Scana Corp., a total of 18 applicants -- power companies and other operating entities -- have applied for plant operating licenses from the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**. ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Scrutiny stepped up at Ft. Calhoun

Omaha World-Herald

By Nancy Gaarder The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** and the Omaha Public Power District will meet at 6 pm Wednesday to discuss Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station's 2010 performance. The public is invited to observe the meeting, which will be at the Hilton ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Preventing Nuclear Meltdown: Assessing Regulatory Failure in Japan and the ...

Brookings Institution

We thus ask what types of regulatory failure may have contributed to Japan's nuclear crisis and assess whether the US **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)** is at risk of committing similar errors. Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc. (TEPCO) Chairman ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

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[Manage your alerts.](#)

BU/1168

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:12 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Can you cut and paste

Mary ignore this ./.. I need to send it home to do a workaround so I can play with the material on the plane. tnx

-----Original Message-----

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 2:38 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Can you cut and paste

Let me know if you need more.

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 2:27 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: Can you cut and paste

Text of task force release in an email. I want to have it easily at hand for CNS press statement writing purposes.
Thanks.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: CNS Background Briefing

Ok. Have a safe trip.

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:10 PM
To: Marshall, Michael; Loyd, Susan
Cc: 'Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov'; Doane, Margaret
Subject: Fw: CNS Background Briefing

I am in the loop as much as this message provides information. I will be talking with jennifer more later. Will keep the boss advised. I personally believe he should have something to say, even if it is to give a synopsis of where we are in our response domestically. We are announcing the task force this afternoon which is fodder.

Jenifer-- any fresh intel? I am slowly making my way to IAD for a 5pm flight. and expect to cross paths tomorrow. I should be ready to work around noon depending on airport stuff.

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Fri Apr 01 02:09:03 2011
Subject: Re: CNS Background Briefing

Thanks, Eliot. Am waiting to hear from Mark S. on how Monday plans are shaping up. There were discussions yesterday of a CNS joint press event monday night to include nrc. Not sure where that conversation ended up yesterday.
Jennifer

From: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Cc: Doane, Margaret <Margaret.Doane@nrc.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 31 23:41:47 2011
Subject: RE: CNS Background Briefing

BU/1170

Jennifer: Last night the chairman told me he was not interested in doing a media event and that he was coming back on Wednesday anyway. There were more discussions between him and our international staff after that conversation and I have not been able to catch up on the current state of play. So, fair warning, he may not do press. We shall see.

Eliot

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:50 AM
To: Shaffer, Mark R
Cc: Cooper, Nathan J; Bednarzek, Wolfgang A; Scheland, Mark DL; Zubarev, Jill E; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: CNS Background Briefing

Mark,

Here are Wolfgang's notes from the morning's IAEA background briefing on the upcoming CNS review meeting. Demonstrates what we were already talking about: journalists' interest in the review meeting, trying to understand the different roles of the IAEA and states party, how the review meeting will address Fukushima, how the review meeting's discussion of Fukushima will relate to the DG's June conference.

Jennifer

From: Wolfgang Bednarzek [mailto:vienna.usmission@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:26 PM
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Cc: Bednarzek, Wolfgang A
Subject: CNS Background Briefing

(b)(4)

I think I will eat something now and probably stay here to go directly to the 2 PM meeting. Let me know, if you need something.

All the best,
Wolfgang

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

--

Do not reply to this account. For queries, use bednarzekwa@state.gov Thank you.

From: STetreault@stephensmedia.com
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:44 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Hi and a query

Hi Eliot,

I hope this finds you well, did you accompany the chairman to Japan?

I understand Dave is off today and thought I would run this by you.

The chairman yesterday told House Approps that the NRC this week sent Rep. Issa copy of the unredacted SER for Yucca Mountain. Can I check with you what else Issa and/or his committee has requested from the NRC and what other material he has been given? And is there any indication of what that committee is doing?

In light of the announcement from Upton and Shimkus yesterday that Energy and Commerce Committee is doing an investigation, I am wondering if there is another committee working on the same??

Any info or direction you can share would be appreciated.

Thanks
Steve

Stephan R. Tetreault
Bureau Chief
Stephens Washington News Bureau/Las Vegas Review-Journal
940 National Press Building
Washington DC 20045
202-783-1760
202-783-1955 fax

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:04 AM
To: Beattie, Jeff
Subject: RE: senate hearing story

Yeah, but it ain't too much fun. The volume of calls is unbelievable, all wanting interviews with people I can't put out. The Japanese press is the worst (except for network bookers). There is one Japanese reporter out in LA who is never going to get a callback from me!

I'm actually doing some short term hiring to take some of the load off our folks.

So....quit calling. Just kidding.

Eliot

From: Beattie, Jeff [mailto:Jeffrey.Beattie@ihs.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:02 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: senate hearing story

I'm repeating! Thanks for the note. Are you all hanging in there?

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Beattie, Jeff
Sent: Fri Apr 01 06:05:01 2011
Subject: senate hearing story
Repeat after me ... "design basis, design basis ..." not design bases.

Everybody's an f-ing editor!

Otherwise, usual nice piece.

eliot

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(4)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:59 AM
To: Danielle Ferraro
Subject: RE: Google Alert - "eliot brenner"

(b)(6)

From: Danielle Ferraro [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:51 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Google Alert - "eliot brenner"

(b)(6)

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov
To: (b)(6)
Date: Fri, 1 Apr 2011 08:06:27 -0400
Subject: RE: Google Alert - "eliot brenner"

What are you putting odds on, a serious story (already been on TV for this thing), or a skanky scandal?

From: Danielle Ferraro [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:42 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Google Alert - "eliot brenner"

well tom -----staill waiting to see your handsome face on tv (and not in some skanky scandal)

I Have Loved the Stars too Fondly to Fear the Night

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov
To: (b)(6)
Date: Thu, 31 Mar 2011 21:14:33 -0400
Subject: FW: Google Alert - "eliot brenner"

Just another day in the news.

From: Google Alerts [mailto:googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:12 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - "eliot brenner"

News

1 new result for "eliot brenner"

Nuclear crisis puts evacuation zones under scrutiny

USA Today

But NRC spokesman **Eliot Brenner** defended his agency's recommendation of a wider evacuation from around the Fukushima plant.

...

Tip: Use site restrict in your query to search within a site (site:nytimes.com or site:.edu). [Learn more.](#)

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[Manage](#) your alerts.

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:56 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Dan Dorman said he'll write a blog post

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:56 AM
To: Luis Reyes
Subject: RE: Media interview with Wall Street Journal?
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks. Be sure to bill a couple of hours for this!

From: Luis Reyes [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:52 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fwd: Media interview with Wall Street Journal?

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mimi Limbach <mlimbach@pcgpr.com>
Date: March 31, 2011 6:21:54 PM EDT
To: (b)(6)
Cc: "Klein, Dale" <dklein@utsystem.edu>
Subject: Media interview with Wall Street Journal?

Good evening –

Dale Klein suggested that you might be interested in chatting with Ben Casselman of the Wall Street Journal, who is doing a story on nuclear plant license extensions. His email is below. I understand that he'd like to chat by mid-day tomorrow. Let me know if you're up for an interview ... or not. If you'd like to chat, I'll call him and arrange a time, and then get out of the way. If you'd prefer to avoid this, is there anyone you'd recommend for the interview?

Do you have anyone in your stable of experts who can speak on nuclear re-licensing? I'm doing a story on how the Japanese crisis will affect relicensing in the U.S., particularly (but not exclusively) at Diablo Canyon. Looking for someone who knows the licensing process well enough to be able to discuss where the choke points are, how the process has changed in recent years, etc., and can handicap, at least to some degree, the impact of Japan going forward. Wouldn't need to discuss Diablo directly, although that would of course be a bonus.

Let me know, or give me a shout: 214-951-7123.

BU/1175

Thanks for considering this.

Best wishes—

Mimi Limbach

Mimi Holland Limbach
Partner

PCGpr

Potomac Communications Group, Inc.

Office: 202 466 7391 | Cell: (b)(6)

www.pcgpr.com

Visit our blog at www.pcgblog.com

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 7:10 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

x

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Friday, April 1, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Republicans launch probe of Yucca Mountain reversal
Obama plugs fuel efficient vehicles
Feds accuse Transocean of stonewalling on witnesses
Japan orders review of radiation figures
Experts: Little worry in U.S. about Japanese radiation
Lawmakers want to scuttle deal on endangered wolves
Judge finds logging plan improperly withdrawn
GOP accuses White House of stonewalling Canadian pipeline
State AGs ask EPA to delay greenhouse gas rules for three years
Rockefeller blasts GOP bill on EPA
Vitter offers own bill on drilling, EPA
Jaczkowski goes from nuclear industry foe to needed ally
Federal investigative hearings into BP spill resume next week
Green groups disappointed Obama didn't back EPA in speech
Coast Guard monitoring pipeline break in Louisiana
Researchers find lax oversight of wildlife trade
Google-backed wind power venture submits request to Interior

Venezuela could settle with Exxon, Conoco for \$2.5 billion

Saudis make \$100 billion push for solar and nuclear energy

Uruguay reports discovery of big shale oil deposit

Shell selling Chile operations

Daybook: Upcoming events

Republicans launch probe of Yucca Mountain reversal

By Edward Felker

Citing concerns over spent fuel raised by the Japanese nuclear crisis, House Republicans are launching an investigation into President Barack Obama's abandonment of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump in Nevada.

The investigation will give GOP leaders an opportunity to explore the role Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid played in scuttling the controversial nuclear dump in his home state and his interactions with Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko, a former Reid aide.

House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich., and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus, R-Ill., said Thursday they launched the probe because they see no evidence of a "scientific or technical basis" for the administration withdrawing Yucca's license application from the NRC in 2009.

They tied the inquiry to the failure of radiation containment at the damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear station in Japan, which has been leaking radiation since shortly after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami off that nation's northeast coast.

"The tragic events unfolding in Japan underscore the urgent need for the United States to pursue a coherent nuclear policy to safely and permanently store spent nuclear fuel. The administration's move to shutter Yucca raises serious red flags," they said.

Noting that more than \$14 billion was spent on the site before halting the application process, Upton and Shimkus added, "Yucca Mountain must be featured prominently in our nuclear future. The stakes are too high for politics to interfere with the permanent and safe storage of spent nuclear fuel."

The committee sent letters to Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Jaczko, requesting information dating from January, 2009, to determine whether both agencies violated the 1982 Nuclear Waste Power Act and their roles in the decision.

A spokesman for the NRC said the commission will comply with the requests.

The Energy Department did not respond to a request for comment.

Obama's abandonment of the Yucca site was cheered by residents of Nevada, led by Reid, D-Nev., but has remained a source of friction between the administration and states whose nuclear power plants continue to pile up spent fuel in underwater and dry cask storage.

It has also been criticized by lawmakers representing states with closed nuclear facilities, especially Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who wants radioactive waste removed from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

State utility commissioners and states have sued the government for allegedly violating the law, and for continuing to collect fees for a national repository from ratepayers.

Obama created a Blue Ribbon Commission to study alternatives, which is to report its initial findings by July and issue a final report by next January.

The NRC, for its part, has declared that spent fuel can be safely held in on-site storage for decades while another repository is built, a declaration that allows new nuclear plants to be built.

Obama plugs fuel efficient vehicles

By The Associated Press

With one eye on the gas pump and the other on his energy agenda, President Barack Obama is showcasing fuel-efficient vehicles as part of his goal to reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

The president was to make a short trip Friday to Landover, Md., to visit a UPS shipping facility that features fuel-saving vehicles. Obama was to launch a public-private partnership designed to help large commercial fleets cut back on their diesel and gasoline use.

Besides UPS vehicles, Obama also was to view examples of fuel efficiency in the fleets of AT&T, PepsiCo and Verizon.

The stop represents Obama's second energy-related event of the week, an effort by the White House to respond to rising gasoline prices by placing a focus on Obama's long-term energy strategies.

On Wednesday, the president called for a one-third reduction in U.S. oil imports by 2025. His energy proposals include boosting domestic oil production, increasing the use of natural gas and alternative fuels and making cars and trucks more efficient.

According to the Energy Department, more than 3 million commercial vehicles

used American roads in 2009, guzzling nearly 4 billion gallons of fuel.

UPS, FedEx, PepsiCo, AT&T and Verizon are charter members of the public-private partnership. They are five of the 10 largest commercial fleets operating in the United States.

The five companies have made a commitment to use 20,000 fuel-efficient vehicles with an estimated fuel savings of 7 million gallons of diesel or gasoline a year. The White House says that together the companies operate more than 275,000 vehicles.

Feds accuse Transocean of stonewalling on witnesses

By Harry R. Weber

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The head of the U.S. agency that regulates offshore drilling is questioning Transocean's willingness to cooperate with a key federal investigation of last year's Gulf of Mexico rig explosion and oil spill.

Michael Bromwich, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement, said in a Thursday letter to Transocean that the company has stonewalled on whether it would produce three employees who have been subpoenaed to testify at hearings next week near New Orleans.

"In my judgment, this is less a legal issue than one of whether Transocean recognizes its moral and corporate responsibility to cooperate with an investigation into the causal factors of the most significant oil spill in United States history," Bromwich wrote. "From my perspective, this is what is at stake with the attendance of the Transocean witnesses."

A lawyer for Transocean, which owned the rig that exploded and which was leasing it to BP, said in a response letter that the company can't control whether the people that investigators want to question show up or not, but it's willing to produce a different expert who isn't on the witness list.

The focus of the seventh set of hearings by the U.S. Coast Guard-BOEMRE panel is the blowout preventer that failed to stop the disaster. A report released last week by a firm that tested the device blamed the failure on a faulty design and a bent piece of pipe, appearing to shift some blame for the disaster away from BP and toward Cameron International, which built the blowout preventer, and Transocean, which was responsible for maintaining it.

The dispute isn't the first time investigators have clashed with Transocean over its cooperation in the probe.

In October, members of the joint panel accused Transocean of thwarting their efforts to get to critical documents and a witness.

Japan orders review of radiation figures

By The Associated Press

Japan's nuclear safety agency ordered a review Friday of the latest radiation measurements taken in air, seawater and groundwater samples around a leaking, tsunami-disabled nuclear plant, saying they seemed suspiciously high.

The utility that runs the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant has repeatedly been forced to retract such figures, fueling fears over health risks and a lack of confidence in the company's ability to respond effectively to the crisis. The Tokyo Electric Power Co. has not been able to stabilize the plant's dangerously overheating reactors since cooling systems were knocked out in the March 11 tsunami.

Among the measurements called into question was one from Thursday that TEPCO said showed groundwater under one of the reactors contained iodine concentrations that were 10,000 times the government's standard for the plant, the safety agency's spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama said. Seawater and air concentrations from this week also are under review.

"We have suspected their isotope analysis, and we will wait for the new results," Nishiyama said, adding that the agency thinks the numbers may be too high.

TEPCO has conceded that there appears to be an error in the computer program used to analyze the data and that recent figures may be inaccurate. They have indicated they are probably too high but have also said that the figures may be correct, despite the glitch.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency has held out the possibility that a complete review of all radiation data collected since the tsunami might eventually be ordered.

Though the size of more recent leaks is now unclear, it appears radiation is still streaming out of the plant, underscoring TEPCO's inability to get it under control. The company has increasingly asked for international help in its uphill battle, most recently ordering giant pumps from the U.S. that were to arrive later this month to spray water on the reactors.

Experts: Little worry in U.S. about Japanese radiation

By The Associated Press

Based on current radiation levels leaking from the stricken Japanese nuclear plant, experts say it's very unlikely that health problems will develop in the United States and other places far from Japan.

"This amount of radiation is tiny, tiny, tiny compared to what you get from natural sources every day," said John Moulder, a professor of radiation

oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee who studies the effects of radiation exposure.

That radioactive fallout is turning up in food and water is hardly a surprise. Very low levels of radiation in the air connected to the Japanese plant have shown up coast to coast in the U.S., as well as in Iceland, Britain and Germany.

Most of the radioactive material disperses in the atmosphere, but some falls to the ground.

Radioactive iodine was found in the milk in California and Washington state, most likely after a cow ate tainted grass or drank puddles of rainwater containing it. Iodine-131, the type that was found, is short-lived and decays fairly quickly, becoming harmless.

Moulder said he wouldn't be surprised if leafy vegetables like spinach are next to show contamination, the source being rainwater. Again, the health risk "is about as close to zero as you can get," he said.

Since this type of iodine is manmade, it isn't normally found in the environment. But we're exposed to natural sources of radiation every day — most of it from radon in the air and, to a lesser extent, from cosmic rays.

Foods we eat also contain low levels of naturally occurring radioactivity, including bananas, carrots and red meat. Even beer has it.

"Once you understand that we swim in this low-level sea of radiation, then it's just a numbers game," said Mike Payne of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security at the University of California, Davis.

Lawmakers want to scuttle deal on endangered wolves

By The Associated Press

Key lawmakers in the political skirmish over gray wolves in the West say they will continue their efforts to lift federal protections for the predators, despite a proposed settlement between environmentalists and the government.

The settlement is pending approval in federal court. It would lift wolf protections in Idaho and Montana, but keep them at least temporarily in Wyoming, Utah, Washington and Oregon.

The deal also includes safeguards sought by environmentalists — features absent from pending legislation in Congress. But whether the agreement will be approved before lawmakers act is uncertain.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana told The Associated Press he won't wait if Congress can act more quickly. And in the House, Idaho Republican Mike

Simpson says he remains committed to legislation lifting wolf protections.

Judge finds logging plan improperly withdrawn

By The Associated Press

A federal judge ruled Thursday the Obama administration has to go through a public comment period before it can yank a controversial plan to double the amount of logging allowed on some federal forests in Western Oregon.

The ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia stops Interior Secretary Ken Salazar from withdrawing the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revision.

It remains unclear whether Salazar will let the plan stand or go through the public process to withdraw it.

Interior spokesman Matt Lee-Ashley said the agency was reviewing the ruling.

Salazar pulled the plan in 2009, saying it was illegal because the Bush administration, which put it into effect, had failed to have it reviewed for endangered species impacts.

Judge John D. Bates wrote that Salazar did not have inherent authority to withdraw the decision without calling for public comment.

GOP accuses White House of stonewalling Canadian pipeline

Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on Thursday accused the Obama administration of stonewalling approval of a pipeline to send Canadian oil sands crude to Gulf Coast refineries, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

State AGs ask EPA to delay greenhouse gas rules for three years

Attorneys general from 19 states plus the territory of Guam have asked the Environmental Protection Agency to delay for at least three years its controversial plan to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, Plastics News reports.

[Read more](#)

Rockefeller blasts GOP bill on EPA

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.V., who wants to delay the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing greenhouse gas rules for two years, says a Republican plan to permanently ban the agency from addressing climate change was a reckless effort "to pick out a campaign issue for 2012," The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Vitter offers own bill on drilling, EPA

Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana has become the latest Republican to propose legislation expanding domestic oil-and-gas drilling and blocking Environmental Protection Agency climate regulations, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Jaczko goes from nuclear industry foe to needed ally

U.S. nuclear-power industry officials have long regarded Gregory Jaczko as an adversary, but following the earthquake and nuclear crisis in Japan they have been counting on him as an ally, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Federal investigative hearings into BP spill resume next week

A joint panel from the U.S. Coast Guard and Interior Department that is investigating the Deepwater Horizon accident will hold its seventh round of hearings next week in New Orleans, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Green groups disappointed Obama didn't back EPA in speech

Environmentalists fighting to save the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority were disappointed that President Barack Obama did not mention the agency's power to rein in greenhouse gases in his energy speech this week, Greenwire reports.

[Read more](#)

Coast Guard monitoring pipeline break in Louisiana

The Coast Guard is monitoring a pipeline near Cameron, La., that broke after being struck by a dredging ship, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Researchers find lax oversight of wildlife trade

Researchers report that international efforts to eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife under an international treaty suffers from lax oversight, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

You can read the full report here.

[Read more](#)

Google-backed wind power venture submits request to Interior

Atlantic Wind Connection, the Google-backed venture to build a wind farm in the mid-Atlantic, filed an application Thursday with the Interior Department for a right-of-way clearance and said the first transmission line would connect to a regional power grid in southern Delaware, the Wilmington Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Venezuela could settle with Exxon, Conoco for \$2.5 billion

Venezuela could pay around \$2.5 billion to Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips for assets that were expropriated by the government nearly four years ago, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Saudis make \$100 billion push for solar and nuclear energy

Saudi Arabia, with 20 percent of the world's oil reserves, is targeting solar and nuclear power in a \$100 billion spending drive aimed at meeting a jump in electricity demand and curbing its dependence on crude, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Uruguay reports discovery of big shale oil deposit

Uruguay, normally a big importer of oil and gas, has made its first discovery of underground oil in what it calls a promising shale deposit, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

Shell selling Chile operations

Royal Dutch Shell said it has agreed to sell most of its downstream business in Chile to conglomerate Quinenco for about \$614 million, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 1, Washington: House Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee hearing, "Tribal development of energy resources and the creation of energy jobs on Indian lands." 11:00 am, Longworth 1324.

- Apr. 1, Washington: SAIS forum, "Shale Gas or Gazprom at the Edge of Doom? The Implications of the Unconventional Gas Revolution for European Energy Security." RSVP requested. 2:30 pm, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:39 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

News

3 new results for **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Regulators say 3 U.S. nuke plants need closer look

Fox News

Washington – The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** said Thursday that three US nuclear plants which are currently operating safely must be reviewed. "The **NRC** felt the three required significant additional oversight but continue to operate safely," ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Congresswoman sending letter to NRC

Times Press Recorder

In a letter to the federal **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, Capps, D-Santa Barbara, asked commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko to "immediately stay the license renewal process for Diablo until further studies demonstrate the plant's design and operations ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Nuclear accident evacuation plans: Is the U.S. ready?

CNN International

The chances of a severe accident are extremely remote, according to the US **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, but in light of the Japanese accident, the possibility must be considered. Major city centers in the vicinity of nuclear reactors include: ...

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From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

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Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Thursday, March 31, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Senate EPA votes put off as budget talks ramp up

NRC: Three U.S. nuclear plants need closer review

Feds: Tougher laws needed to improve mine safety

Oil prices rise to highest level since 2008

Japan seeks French, US expertise in nuclear crisis

House Republicans to probe Yucca shutdown

Senate GOP proposes Arctic drilling, proceeds to clean energy

Snowe, Merkley bill would end overseas oil imports by 2030

NRC relaxed rule to prevent hydrogen explosions

Norway's Statoil to join Gulf oil spill response consortium

Pennsylvania restricts oil and gas regulators

German utility to sue over nuclear safety plans

Letter bomb explodes at Swiss nuclear office

Shell signs deal on big Iraqi oil field

British oil industry pushes back against tax increase

Daybook: Upcoming events

Senate EPA votes put off as budget talks ramp up

By Edward Felker

A tell-tale Senate vote on regulating greenhouse gas emissions was delayed again Thursday as the White House and Democrats sought to tamp down speculation that they might sacrifice environmental regulations to reach a budget deal with Republicans.

White House Press Secretary Jay Carney took the rare step of publicly disputing an Associated Press report that President Barack Obama had told the Congressional Black Caucus he might be willing to accept Republican prohibitions on the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority as part of a deal to fund the government through September.

"That story is false," Carney said.

House Republicans included 19 environmental "riders" in the budget bill they passed last month, including prohibitions on EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and new rules restricting air pollution, mountaintop coal mining and offshore drilling.

Carney would not rule out any particular section of the House budget bill that Obama might accept in negotiations, but said "there are lines that he obviously will not cross."

"What the president said and what I have said is that it's not the appropriate vehicle...on which to stack a log of contentious, ideological, politicized issues that, honestly, will derail the process," Carney said. "Those issues that make a deal extremely hard to get, and probably impossible, should not be part of a partial-year funding bill, simply should not be."

The AP story, nonetheless, prompted strong reactions from environmental groups Thursday, who were already preparing to fight against amendments to a Senate small business bill to ban EPA greenhouse gas authority or delay regulations for two years.

Votes planned for Thursday appeared to be postponed again, as the Senate remained unable to reach a deal on amendments that would lead to final passage of the bill.

The Center for Biological Diversity urged its membership to call the White House.

"Right now, the president may be capitulating to demands to repeal some of our nation's cornerstone air, water and public health protections, including the Clean Air Act," the group said in an email.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., the third-ranking Senate Democrat, said on the

Senate floor that the EPA climate prohibition amendment in the spending bill was “extreme,” along with one to cut off federal money to Planned Parenthood, and that neither would be acceptable.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. and the ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said he wants Obama to hold firm against the riders.

“I would hope they would not agree to some of the anti-environment riders,” he said.

Boehner refused to say whether he would fight for the EPA prohibition or others in the bill, and stressed, as did Carney, that until a final agreement is reached, no part of the negotiations were closed.

“Nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to,” Boehner said.

Late in the day, a group of 55 House Democrats who voted for one or both of the previous short-term spending bills passed by Congress, said they would not support any final bill that included anti-EPA provisions.

“We feel strongly that these policy provisions, which would significantly jeopardize the protection of American communities and ecosystems, should not be included in a bipartisan budget bill,” they said, in a letter to Boehner.

The letter was organized by the Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., and Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., in their role as the leaders of the House Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition.

NRC: Three U.S. nuclear plants need closer review

By Matthew Daly

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says three U.S. nuclear power plants need increased oversight from federal regulators, although officials stressed that all are operating safely.

NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko says the three plants — in South Carolina, Kansas and Nebraska — need more intensive review than other plants because of problems with safety systems or unplanned shutdowns.

Jaczko told a House subcommittee Thursday that the plants “are the ones we are most concerned about” among the 65 U.S. nuclear power plants in 31 states.

Jaczko did not identify the plants, but an agency spokesman said they are the H.B. Robinson nuclear plant in South Carolina, Fort Calhoun in Nebraska and Wolf Creek in Kansas.

Feds: Tougher laws needed to improve mine safety

By Sam Hananel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Mine Safety and Health Administration on Thursday renewed his call for tougher legislation to protect miners, nearly a year after an explosion killed 29 men at a West Virginia coal mine.

MSHA Director Joe Main told a Senate panel that his agency has made progress in fixing flaws in the enforcement system that came to light after the disaster. But he said new legislation would make it easier for the government to shut down problem mines, impose tougher criminal penalties and protect whistleblowers.

"This committee has a long history of standing up for our nation's miners," Main told the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. "I hope you do so again and pass new mine safety legislation and quickly."

The panel is considering what Congress can do to help prevent a similar accident from happening in the future. Efforts to pass sweeping mine safety legislation failed in the House last year.

Committee chairman Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said the Senate is ready to focus on a mine safety bill.

"We now have sufficient information to make intelligent reforms to our mine safety laws and we shouldn't waste any time in doing so," Harkin said.

Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch mine exploded on April 5, 2010, and the company remains the target of civil and criminal investigations. Federal investigators believe the blast was caused by a preventable buildup of methane gas mixing with coal dust, although Richmond-based Massey has disputed those findings.

Main said a full report on the investigation is "several months" away, but MSHA plans to hold a briefing on June 29 in Beckley, W.Va., to share progress on the probe with the public.

Since the April 2010 explosion, the safety agency has ramped up enforcement, created new mine safety screening procedures and conducting 228 "impact" inspections at mines with poor safety records or other warning signs of problems. The agency's new screening procedures were put in place after officials discovered that a computer error had allowed Upper Big Branch to evade heightened scrutiny.

The agency has also proposed new safety rules that would result in speedier enforcement for mines that have shown a pattern of serious violations.

Wyoming Sen. Mike Enzi, the committee's ranking Republican, argued that

MSHA already has the tools available to improve enforcement and should use them more effectively instead of calling for new legislation. He cited an MSHA Office of Accountability report issued to the Senate Appropriations Committee just two weeks before the Upper Big Branch explosion that warned lawmakers about serious enforcement lapses at the agency.

Enzi suggested fixing the existing problems at the agency instead of "holding out for political victories that will be difficult to achieve."

Main said his agency is in the process of getting to GOP lawmakers additional reports that show MSHA's shortcomings before the Upper Big Branch explosion.

The Department of Labor's assistant inspector general, Eliot Lewis, told the committee about a report he completed last year showing that in 32 years MSHA had never successfully used its full authority to clamp down on mines with a history of serious violations. That report also faulted the agency for using a faulty computer program that sometimes left out mines that should have been flagged, and other times incorrectly included mines that were safe.

Main, who took office just a few months before the disaster, said he is still investigating why his agency wasn't more aggressive in using the tools it had prior to the accident. But he said that Upper Big Branch and subsequent inspections of other troubled mines show the need for major reforms "to change the culture of safety in some parts of the mining industry."

Oil prices rise to highest level since 2008

By The Associated Press

The price of oil rose to a 30-month high on Thursday as fighters loyal to Moammar Gadhafi pushed back rebels from key areas in eastern Libya.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude rose \$2.45, more than 2 percent, to settle at \$106.72 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. At one point it hit \$106.83, the highest it's been since September, 2008. In London, Brent crude rose \$2.25 to settle at \$117.20 per barrel.

Battles between Gadhafi's troops and rebels have seesawed back and forth in Libyan ports and towns since mid-February, with the price of oil rising more than \$20 a barrel since then.

Energy consultants Cameron Hanover said traders are beginning to view the Libya uprising as a standoff for now. "Without control of the air, Gadhafi's troops have been unable to hammer home their gains. And, without strong and well-trained ground forces, the rebels seem incapable of holding onto their gains. Optimism that Libyan oil might return to the market, seen earlier this

week, was dashed.”

Libya’s oil exports, which went mainly to Europe, are shut down. The rebels have said they plan to start shipping oil again, although how soon that could happen is unclear. Libya exported only about 1.6 million barrels of oil a day, or 2 percent of global consumption, but energy traders worry that unrest will spread across the region to disrupt shipments from OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The Saudis are the biggest oil producers in the world, supplying about 8.4 million barrels a day. Iran produces more than 4 million barrels a day. Anti-government protests in those countries so far have been limited, although unrest continues in Syria, Bahrain and Yemen.

Meanwhile the Saudis are making good on a promise to make up for the deficit of Libyan oil. “Saudi Arabia is beginning to supply European oil companies with crude oil to help alleviate the shortfall from Libya,” said

Addison Armstrong, senior director of market research at Tradition Energy. “Saudi Arabian Oil Co. has sold three shipments of light, sweet crude for March and April delivery: two to Austrian oil company OMV AG and one to BP.”

Japan seeks French, US expertise in nuclear crisis

By Mari Yamaguchi and Ryan Nakashima

TOKYO, Japan (AP) — Japan is increasingly turning to other countries for help as it struggles to stabilize its tsunami-stricken nuclear plant and stop radiation leaks that are complicating efforts to recover the bodies of some of the thousands swept away by the towering wave.

French, American and international experts — even a robot — are either in Japan or on their way, and French President Nicholas Sarkozy visited Tokyo on Thursday to meet with the prime minister and show solidarity.

Workers are racing to find the source of contaminated water that has been pooling in the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. The leaks have often forced workers to flee the plant, preventing them from restarting important cooling systems.

“The amount of water is enormous, and we need any wisdom available,” said nuclear safety agency spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama.

A spokesman for plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Thursday that radioactive contamination in groundwater 15 yards (meters) under one of six reactors there had been measured at 10,000 times the government standard.

Still, spokesman Naoyuki Matsumo said the company does not believe any

drinking water supply is affected by the elevated levels of iodine-131, a radioactive substance that decays quickly, with half disappearing in eight days.

Experts from French nuclear giant Areva, which supplied fuel to the plant, are helping figure out how to dispose of the contaminated water that has begun leaking into the ground and the sea.

"We are not a supplier only for happy days," CEO Anne Lauvergeon told reporters in Tokyo on Thursday. "We are effectively also there when things become difficult."

Officials from the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., said they welcome the help.

"U.S. nuclear plants aren't by the ocean, unlike Japanese ones, so we think the French may be able to help us more than the Americans," said TEPCO Manager Teruaki Kobayashi.

Officials with his company also said they expect to use a remote-controlled robot sent by the U.S. within a few days to evaluate areas with high radiation. They are also setting up a panel of Japanese and American nuclear experts and American military personnel to address the crisis.

House Republicans to probe Yucca shutdown

Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee have launched an investigation of the administration's decision to stop the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository project, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Senate GOP proposes Arctic drilling, proceeds to clean energy

Senate Republicans on Thursday made another bid to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, but this time they sweetened the offer to Democrats by dedicating a quarter of the revenue to renewable energy projects, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Snowe, Merkley bill would end overseas oil imports by 2030

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, and Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., have written a bill aiming to end oil imports from nations outside North America by 2030, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

NRC relaxed rule to prevent hydrogen explosions

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission allowed reactors to stop using equipment designed to ward off an explosive buildup of hydrogen in containment buildings, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Norway's Statoil to join Gulf oil spill response consortium

Norway's Statoil has agreed to join the Marine Well Containment Co., an ExxonMobil-led consortium of oil companies developing spill-response equipment for the Gulf of Mexico, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Pennsylvania restricts oil and gas regulators

Oil and gas inspectors policing Marcellus Shale development in Pennsylvania will no longer be able to issue violations to the drilling companies they regulate without first getting the approval of top officials, ProPublica reports.

[Read more](#)

German utility to sue over nuclear safety plans

The German utility RWE AG is filing a lawsuit against the government's decision to take older nuclear power plants temporarily off the grid in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster, Forbes reports.

[Read more](#)

Letter bomb explodes at Swiss nuclear office

A letter bomb exploded at the office of a Swiss nuclear industry lobbying group on Thursday, slightly injuring two employees, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Shell signs deal on big Iraqi oil field

Royal Dutch Shell PLC and its partners Malaysia's Petronas and Iraq signed Thursday a \$200 million deal with British-based Petrovac to design, contract and supply early-production units for the development of a massive oil field in southern Iraq, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

British oil industry pushes back against tax increase

Major British oil and gas producers said they will directly lobby Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne to mitigate the effects of a large tax increase on the industry, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Apr. 1, Washington: House Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee hearing, "Tribal development of energy resources and the creation of energy jobs on Indian lands." 11:00 am, Longworth 1324.
- Apr. 1, Washington: SAIS forum, "Shale Gas or Gazprom at the Edge of Doom? The Implications of the Unconventional Gas Revolution for European Energy Security." RSVP requested. 2:30 pm, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:01 PM
To: Rubin, Rita
Subject: RE: you got lucky

I can't recall if I told you that we stand with our current advice to the embassy for the evacuation of U.S. citizens within 50 miles of the Japanese reactors. That is because this remains a very serious and fluid situation.

Eliot

From: Rubin, Rita [mailto:rrubin@usatoday.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:42 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: you got lucky

Muchos gracias

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 04:41 PM
To: Rubin, Rita
Subject: RE: you got lucky

Yep...the chairman himself said those very words, as captured on my digital recorder and painstakingly transcribed exclusively for USA Today.

From: Rubin, Rita [mailto:rrubin@usatoday.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:32 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: you got lucky

Thanks, Eliot. So I can quote this directly and attribute it to Chairman Jaczko?

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:14 PM
To: Rubin, Rita
Subject: you got lucky

Here are my notes on the one question from nita lowey that went to 10/50 miles:

"The current program for emergency preparedness is basically built on two thresholds, the first thresholds are those types of events that would happen in a very short period of time and would require pre-prepared, preplanned evacuation plans and that gets you to the 10 mile evacuation zone we talk about. Beyond that we have a 50 mile planning area that is again, for events that happen more quickly, is intended to provide a mechanism to ensure that food supplies and other types of contamination related events could be controlled and dealt with. But in any situation it is up

to state and local governments to provide the ability to take appropriate protective action that could extend beyond 10 miles. It is the preplanning that goes into the 10 miles."

He went on to say that all aspects of regulation will be looked at in the 90-day and 6-month reviews the NRC has planned.

Eliot

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

From: Chandrathil, Prema
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: R3 TNT

Glad someone has connected all the dots for why Japan happened.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:46 PM
To: Chandrathil, Prema
Subject: RE: R3 TNT

Must be the same people who called Bethany.

From: Chandrathil, Prema
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:46 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: R3 TNT

We should try putting in the calls about the Aliens. People would really love that.



From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:41 PM
To: Chandrathil, Prema
Subject: RE: R3 TNT

I wrapped it into another seismic item. Right now these things are too long and repetitive when I start seeing the same things come up out of each region. I can't bore people to death with the same story four different times.

Don't quit giving me specifics, just don't be surprised if it gets truncated.

From: Chandrathil, Prema
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:40 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: R3 TNT

Do you not like the Clinton Plant. ☹

CLINTON—OPA did an in depth interview for WZND-Radio about how Clinton is safe and able to withstand seismic events and that the NRC will be looking at the events in Japan to see if there are any lessons that can be learned and see if there are any changes that should be made to ensure the public is protected. Reporter plans to run the story this weekend.

From: Chandrathil, Prema
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 2:59 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth

Cc: Mitlyng, Viktoria
Subject: R3 TNT

ZION— OPA spoke to a Chicago Tribune Reporter who was inquiring about a public meeting Region 3 held in Feb. about the NRC's role in the decommissioning project. OPA explained the inspections process and how inspection reports would be publically available. The reporter was particularly interested in the transfer of spent fuel from the pool to dry cask storage.

CLINTON—OPA did an in depth interview for WZND-Radio about how Clinton is safe and able to withstand seismic events and that the NRC will be looking at the events in Japan to see if there are any lessons that can be learned and see if there are any changes that should be made to ensure the public is protected. Reporter plans to run the story this weekend.

TRACE AMOUNTS OF IODINE—OPA answered several more questions from WBEZ-Chicago public radio about how plants monitor for elements and what regulations the NRC has in place to ensure amounts from a plant would be monitored. OPA explained the Radiation Environmental Monitoring Program and how samples are collected from both onsite and offsite areas. OPA also explained that the agency is aware of trace amounts from the events in Japan being detected by sensitive equipment and that it poses no health impact to those in the U.S.

I love my new Japanese diet—the air is so tasty!

Prema Chandrathil-Yeamon
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
Lisle, IL
(630) 829-9663
prema.chandrathil@nrc.gov

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Dean, Bill; Sheehan, Neil
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Lew, David; Roberts, Darrell; Gray, Mel; Screnci, Diane
Subject: RE: PBS filming request

Thanks. That sounds reasonable.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
— *Protecting People and the Environment*
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Dean, Bill
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:34 PM
To: Sheehan, Neil; Hayden, Elizabeth
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Lew, David; Roberts, Darrell; Gray, Mel; Screnci, Diane
Subject: RE: PBS filming request

This is a challenging time with annual assessment meetings and the TI-183 inspections primarily by the residents. After mid-May might be a better time as the TI-183s will be done and we will have completed a percentage of the Annual Assessment meetings.

Bill

From: Sheehan, Neil
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:05 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Dean, Bill; Lew, David; Roberts, Darrell; Gray, Mel; Screnci, Diane
Subject: RE: PBS filming request

All of the Resident Inspectors are going to be very busy for the next few months with Japan-related reviews.

(b)(5)

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Chandrathil, Prema; Screnci, Diane; Ledford, Joey; Sheehan, Neil; Hannah, Roger; Uselding, Lara; Dricks, Victor; Mitlyng, Viktoria
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: PBS filming request

This is the request I mentioned on this morning's conference call. You can read the details of the request below. I realize this is a very busy time for everyone, so I didn't commit to this filming.

(b)(5)

BU/1181

(b)(5)

The producer said they could go anywhere in the country and was looking to do the filming in the next couple of weeks. We would have to stipulate in advance that we wouldn't be speaking about the Japan plants or event. However, it could be reassuring to know we have people at each plant to keep an eye on safety.

Please let me know if you can accommodate this request.

Beth

From: Alice Borrelli [mailto:Alice.Borrelli@liontv.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:40 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: PBS filming request

Hi Beth,

Thanks for your help on this. Spoke with the DOE who passed me onto various people, and whilst they're very interesting it looks like they are more in the discussion/laboratory stages which is not so much in the shop floor approach of this series, so I'm hoping you might be able to help again. Are there inspectors going out in the next few weeks? Does each power station or utility have its own inspector or do they go where and when guidelines require? If we shadow an inspector would we be able to follow them pretty much everywhere?

Let me know what you think.

Many thanks for your time on this.

Best wishes

Alice

(b)(6)

From: Hayden, Elizabeth [mailto:Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Alice Borrelli
Subject: FW: PBS filming request

Ms. Borrelli,

We suggest you talk to the U.S. Department of Energy and the Nuclear Energy Institute for your story. If after you speak with DOE and you are still interested in talking to us and/or filming a "day in the life" of an NRC resident inspector to address nuclear safety, let us know and we will see if we can accommodate your schedule. As the regulator, we do not promote nuclear energy. As you know, we are very focused on the Japan situation right now and have almost a dozen experts working in Japan with government officials to help with the events that are unfolding.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
— Protecting People and the Environment
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Janbergs, Holly
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 9:01 AM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: PBS filming request

I know we're focused on Japan at the moment, but I spoke with this woman last week and don't know what to tell her.

From: OPA Resource
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:55 PM
To: Janbergs, Holly
Subject: FW: PBS filming request

From: Alice Borrelli [mailto:Alice.Borrelli@liontv.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 1:50 PM
To: OPA Resource
Subject: PBS filming request

Hi Bethany

Good to speak to you just now. Further to our conversation, here are the details of the TV series, which I'm very much hoping you can help with, as we'd love to be able to feature Nuclear power in a positive, pro active light. We know that nuclear energy has been making a big comeback in the last few years and in our efforts to chart the growth of energy infrastructure over the last 100 years, we also want to highlight where it's going and what processes and technologies will be involved.

I'm hoping you might be able to suggest strongly visual stories we can tell about nuclear power and how it functions. So far our series filming has involved our presenter, Yul Kwon, either being involved in energy work or talking to people whilst they do their work, as opposed to sit down interviews.

I'm hoping that you might be able to suggest stories where we can educate people on surprising things about nuclear power as well as film something impressive.

We're hoping to film in the next 3-4 weeks if possible and I'm guessing there might be things like - a day in the life of a nuclear plant inspector, or organizing the safe journey of spent fuel or uranium from nuclear war heads in Russia to an enrichment plant or the 3D studies of new sites for waste disposal or robots that can operate plants or the train journey and delivery of a small reactor to a business. Honestly we are very open to suggestion on this, these are just my initial ideas.

'America Revealed' is a national PBS production and will be the landmark series of 2011. It will take viewers on an epic journey uncovering the patterns and rhythms of our lives from a striking new perspective. This series uses aerial footage, high-definition video and cutting-edge data-driven graphics, to present a new look at the nation's evolving landscape, giving viewers an unprecedented and surprising look at the societal and technological shifts that are transforming the United States. This aims to be an educational, but entertaining piece that we ultimately hope will be a historical document for the future.

Here is a link to our previous series, made for the UK, this will give you an idea of the filming style -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/britainfromabove/>

<http://www.pbs.org/about/news/archive/2011/pbs-america-revealed/>

This will be a four part series with an hour each dedicated to Energy, Food, Transport and Manufacturing and they will all screen together in the Fall. We anticipate filming taking a day.

For Energy we are looking at energy infrastructure and all the technologies and skilled people it takes to keep that infrastructure maintained and running smoothly. Ultimately we're charting the journey of how energy gets from its source to the light switch.

Does this sound like the kind of thing you might be able to help with? Do you have any major projects going on soon that would be very visual?

If you could let me know what you think and what might be possible, I'd be really grateful.

Many thanks for your time, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards

Alice

Researcher at Lion TV for PBS

(b)(6)

This email has been scanned by the MessageLabs Email Security System.
For more information please visit <http://www.messagelabs.com/email>

From: Molly O'Neill <molly.oneill@collaborativegov.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:46 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; 'Molly O'Neill'
Subject: RE: Draft Leadership Journal Profiles for Jazcko and Borchardt

Eliot,

Thank you so much for the quick review..especially given your schedule these days. I can only imagine!
Glad you liked the pieces. Will get these edits in. I am finalizing my overall story this week...which weaves in some themes from all the interviews. I think it will make for some interesting reading.

I will be in touch when the issue is ready.

Good luck with your travels.

Molly

Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

Molly: I knocked these out early while I was up packing and preparing for another time change. We have to leave for a Japan-related meeting in Vienna shortly. FYI, you could work in that the chairman made a whirlwind trip to Japan the last weekend, spending more time in the air than on the ground. He was there to consult with the U.S. Ambassador, talk to the team of approximately a dozen folks we have working there, and consult with the Japanese government and TEPCO. He left Saturday night, landed Monday morning in Tokyo after getting there the hard way (Dulles-London-Tokyo) and then flying back direct on Tuesday morning, arriving Tuesday morning at Dulles.

Both these profiles exceptionally well written. I have made some edits in a "redline strikeout" version of each attached to this message. I changed the file designation slightly so you would know it was a revised document. There is one thing I have to check with Borchardt which has to do with his education. If I cannot get that cleared up quickly, leaving the question hanging is no big deal.

Eliot

From: Molly O'Neill [mailto:molly.oneill@collaborativegov.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:19 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Draft Leadership Journal Profiles for Jazcko and Borchardt

Eliot,

I am sure you have been crazy busy the past couple of weeks! I wanted to give you a chance to look at the draft profiles we did for Chairman Jazcko and William Borchardt for our CGI Initiative for Collaborative Government *Leadership* journal to be published in late April.

We are running tight up against the printer's deadline to get them pages, so I am hoping that you can review this for accuracy and send it back with any proposed changes by Friday, April 1, noonish. As you might guess, we had to include a few words on the situation in Japan which delayed me sending these to you. I think they are both positive and interesting stories about the NRC leadership! Sorry for the short turnaround.

Thanks in advance.

Best,

Molly O'Neill

Molly O'Neill

Fellow

CGI Initiative for Collaborative Government

703.227.4328

molly.oneill@collaborativegov.org

Man of the People

For William Borchardt, trust – earned from the public and shared among his staff – is the core of nuclear safety.

By John Pulley

As point man in charge of day-to-day operations at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, William Borchardt isn't afraid to buck tradition. With public safety on the line, he says, he will do whatever is necessary "to make sure that all the trains are running on schedule."

Three years ago, when Borchardt, 55, assumed his current position as NRC's executive director for operations--its chief operating officer--he challenged the agency's hierarchy, introducing the principle of "situational leadership," that the most qualified available person should lead, regardless of title, rank or salary.

"I don't care where you're at in the organization chart," Borchardt says. "If a Grade 11 person is the best person to head up a project, it's perfectly acceptable. It's a good thing if we have an SES person reporting to that Grade 11. What's wrong with that?"

He introduced the concept expecting a few noses to be bent out of joint, so he braced himself.

"I was waiting for outrage from the [senior executives]," he recalls. It never materialized. "They said 'That's absolutely right.'"

"You have to give yourself and the organization permission to operate in the way that most of us would like to operate. Some organizations seem trapped in [the mindset of] 'You can't do that. There's some rule.'"

"My job is to say: There's no rule. Do this."

Serious About Safety

Borchardt graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, in 1978, with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, served five years in the Navy's nuclear submarine force and ~~earned a nuclear engineering degree~~. He married

in 1982 and decided to pursue a civilian career, taking a position at NRC, in 1983, as a reactor inspector at the Region I office, King of Prussia, Pa. He planned to stay just long enough to get a feel for the civilian work world. His intention was to "jump off from there and start my career."

He never left. Over his 28 years at the NRC, he has had "12 or 15 different jobs." He served as resident inspector at the Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station in New Jersey, in the late 1980's. One of the last nuclear plants built in the country, Hope Creek began operating in 1986. He also was an ~~resident~~ inspector at two operating reactors in New England, posts that provided "a great foundation of what this industry is all about and how seriously everybody involved with it takes nuclear safety."

More recently, following enactment of the 2005 Energy Policy Act and the increased licensing activity it was expected to spur, he created the NRC's Office of New Reactors.

"The NRC turned out to be such a highly motivating place to work ... I never seriously considered leaving," explains Borchardt.

Mission Trumps

The NRC's culture, he says, offers chances for people like him, who know the agency inside out, to challenge conventional wisdom. But as much as he is comfortable disrupting hierarchy, Borchardt enthusiastically upholds what he refers to as the agency's "first principles," the guidelines and touchstones that undergird organizational cohesion and sharpen mission focus.

Standing up the Office of New Reactors, for example, was done in accordance with the most inviolable of NRC's institutional tenets: preserving the health and safety of the American people.

"The fact that we created that office is reflective of the way the NRC operates. We're all about first principles," Borchardt says. "Clearly, the most important thing we do and what this agency is all about is the safety of the operating reactors. Rather than dilute the attention of the people who have responsibility for oversight of operating reactors, we created a whole new organization to do the new reactor work."

The Office of New Reactors has regulatory authority over "siting, licensing and oversight for new commercial nuclear power reactors," according to the NRC's web site. The creation of that office reflects other principles as well, such as the importance of getting in front of trends that can affect the agency's ability to fulfill its mission. The NRC cannot afford to be reactive, Borchardt says.

"The Energy Policy Act of 2005 really gave a shot of energy to the industry to create new designs for the next generation of nuclear plants," he says. "The NRC recognized that there would be a significant workload [increase], and we moved to create a new office to do those design reviews. ... I was able to form this office before we even got the first operating license application, so we didn't start off behind the eight ball."

The cooperative way the agency stood up the office illustrates how mission trumps the concerns of component organizations at the NRC, he says. "The staff that was used to form the nucleus of this new organization—no pun intended—had to come from the existing NRC," explains Borchardt. "You would think that managers of all the other offices would have created fences around their protected staff, but there was none of that."

"We had this very open exchange of what was best for the agency," he says. "I was able to seed this new organization with people of the highest caliber."

'A Sense of Trust'

Maintaining communications and credibility is a key driver of NRC's success, Borchardt says. "We have always strived to be open with all stakeholders—with the public, with our employees, with the industry we regulate," he says.

Congress is a key stakeholder. When the NCR sought to expand from 3,000 to 4,000 people to keep up with demand for regulatory services beginning in 2005, it needed a bigger budget. Even though the nuclear industry covers about 90 percent of the NRC's operating expenses

through licensing fees, Congress must approve the agency's spending plans.

Lawmakers "authorized an appropriate increase in our budget," says Borchardt, who attributes the approval, in part, to "a sense of trust. We didn't go crazy with the request. We only asked for what we really needed to do the job, and they gave us what we asked for."

Similarly, the agency has worked to increase trust through modified public hearings, reviews and license-application processes that encourage public involvement. Licensing used to be a two-part process: The NRC would grant a license to build a facility and then, years later, a license to operate it. The process incorporated most public input at the end of the process, at times leading to unfortunate consequences. For example, the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, built on Long Island, N.Y., in New Jersey at a cost in today's dollars of \$6 billion between 1973 and 1984, never produced commercial electricity. Legitimate safety/emergency preparedness-concerns weren't considered until far too late in the license-application review, Borchardt says.

"Now, public participation is more appropriately spaced at different points in the process," Borchardt says.

Equally important are productive working relations with the nuclear power industry, he says. "It's the industry and the regulators working together to create a safe industry. They realize that the absolute worst thing they could do is cut a corner and cause a serious accident. They would devastate their own company as well as the whole industry."

Indeed, the nuclear energy industry "has spoken relatively favorably about the work we're doing on the new reactor design reviews," even though they can take several years to complete, says Borchardt. Regulated companies aren't dissatisfied with the pace because "it's more important that it be done correctly and be done thoroughly than be done fast," he says.

Flipping the Pyramid

Borchardt has broad oversight of agency employees, including people in the headquarters organization, four regional offices, resident inspectors

who work at every operating nuclear facility and a training center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "I view my job as one of enabling the success of individuals within the agency to accomplish the agency's mission," he says.

To illustrate, he refers to the standard model of hierarchical organization, the pyramid. Then he flips it. "I think of myself as being at the bottom, supporting the success of the inspectors in the field. It's my job to make sure that they have the tools, the skills, the training and the information they need to be successful. I see my job as being a clay layer to keep all the political noise from getting to them."

Borchardt says he relies on "a handful of core values" to empower NRC's workforce. Those values include trusting his people, operating as much as possible like a flat organization, eliminating intra-agency stovepipes and promoting a culture of trust.

"My premise is that everyone of the 4,000 people who come to work here want to work hard. They want to accomplish something and they want to go home at the end of the day feeling good about having done something," Borchardt says. "My job is to clearly define what it is we're trying to do and to help them succeed through whatever mechanism I can utilize. I've yet to be disappointed using that logic."

Those mechanisms take many forms. The NRC is an aggressive user of flexible schedule programs, Borchardt says. More than 49 percent of its workers telework, according to a recent Office of Personnel Management report.¹ The use of those tools has earned the agency a reputation as one of the best places to work in the federal government.²

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Safety First

At every opportunity, Gregory Jazcko hammers home the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's No. 1 goal.

By John Pulley

On March 11, 2011, Japan's nuclear power industry was shaken to its core by a 9.0 magnitude quake followed by a massive tsunami. The 45-plus-foot wave swamped the six reactors of the Fukushima Daiichi plant about 130 miles North of Tokyo.

In the weeks following Japan's double catastrophe, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jazcko became the Obama administration's nuclear point man, explaining, reassuring, and reiterating one message: The safety of U.S. reactors is the NRC's singular focus.

At a March 16 hearing before two House Energy and Commerce subcommittees, Jazcko, 40, a physicist turned congressional aide turned nuclear regulator, patiently fielded questions from the wary representatives of a concerned America. If it was the tsunami that did the real damage in Japan, then what about a tornado here? Or

terrorists? Or hurricanes? Blackouts? Or what about a quake like the one “that hit San Francisco in 1906?”

Again and again, Jaczko offered variations on a few themes: It’s too early to speculate on what happened in Japan. All the plants we’ve licensed and those we are reviewing meet strict standards for earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis and, since September 11, terrorist attacks. We determine the largest earthquake likely to occur and how much it will shake a reactor, and then we require the plant to be able to withstand that and a little bit more.

At the March 16 hearing, Jaczko illustrated his point by pointing to a glass of water on the table in front of him and saying, “If you think of this as the nuclear power plant . . . when you talk about the magnitude of the earthquake, it would be like me hitting the table with my fist. Something like that.” Banging the witness table. “And you’ll see it makes the glass over here vibrate.”

“What we actually measure, and we design our nuclear power plants around, is that shaking of the power plant,” Jaczko explained. “So the actual impact depends on where I hit in relation to the glass. A large earthquake that’s very far away, may not have the same impact on a site as an earthquake that’s maybe a little bit less,

but much closer, so something like that,” Jaczko said striking again, less forcefully, nearer the glass.

And, as he has at almost every public appearance since March 11, Jaczko repeated a promise: The NRC’s review of events in Japan will be “systematic and methodical” and any new lessons will be applied to U.S. reactors.

Focus on Safety

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NRC regulates every aspect of nuclear energy production, from the mining of nuclear materials and approval of new reactor designs to the review and approval of licenses to build and operate nuclear power plants and the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. Its rules are designed to protect the public and nuclear energy workers

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“Given the controversies over nuclear power, it’s really incumbent upon us to be an open and transparent agency,” Jaczko says. “That’s a legacy that this agency has had for a long time, and it’s certainly been something that’s been important to me personally.”

He has bucked tradition by suggesting that the five-member commission might operate more transparently. At present, members vote on policy issues and other matters by paper ballot. Results of those votes are revealed only after a majority of commissioners has prevailed.

“It would be more transparent if we were making our decisions in actual real-time voting sessions. It would be a change for the agency, but it’s something I certainly think would enhance openness and transparency,” Jaczko says. “It’s something I will continue to discuss with my colleagues.”

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\$800.8 million--would be designated for nuclear reactor safety. "The new challenges in front of us are happening in the context of an expectation that we will do it more efficiently and effectively than we've ever done it," Jaczko says. "I'm pleased to say that the agency is in a good position to do that. We have very good people here who are constantly looking to do things better and finding ways to improve."

Jaczko holds that federal agencies can be models of efficiency and effectiveness. Regulators, such as NRC, have to be, he says. One need look no further than the Gulf Oil Spill, the financial debacle on Wall Street or the recent mine disaster in West Virginia to grasp the consequences of ineffective regulation, he says.

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NRC is benchmarking administrative functions, such as procurement, against the best practices of other federal agencies. "To make our internal processes a little more effective, a little more strategic ... we're working to incorporate [those strategies] here," Jaczko says. "When we're spending taxpayer money, we want to do that in the most effective way possible."

Other federal organizations are tapping NRC's expertise, particularly in safety and interaction with industry and the public, Jaczko says. Foreign governments seeking to develop or expand nuclear energy programs frequently also look to the NRC. A former NRC senior manager, for example, heads the nuclear regulatory agency of the United Arab Republics, which is building a nuclear power program from scratch. And now, 11 NRC staffers are in Tokyo, assisting an increasingly

desperate effort to stanch the release of radioactivity and ward off a meltdown at the crumbling and increasingly unstable Daiichi plant. But even amidst the urgency, Jaczko still intends to keep the NRC focused on Job 1.

“Our No. 1 priority will continue to be the safety and security of the existing [U.S. reactor] fleet. So we don’t intend to take resources away from that activity to help staff this effort to analyze what happened in Japan,” he assured interviewers on C-SPAN’s “Newsmaker’s” program on March 20.

Safety First

At every opportunity, Gregory Jazcko hammers home the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's No. 1 goal.

By John Pulley

On March 11, 2011, Japan's nuclear power industry was shaken to its core by a 9.0 magnitude quake followed by a massive tsunami. The 45-plus-foot wave swamped the six reactors of the Fukushima Daiichi plant about 130 miles North of Tokyo.

In the weeks following Japan's double catastrophe, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jazcko became the Obama administration's nuclear point man, explaining, reassuring, and reiterating one message: The safety of U.S. reactors is the NRC's singular focus.

At a March 16 hearing before two House Energy and Commerce subcommittees, Jazcko, 40, a physicist turned congressional aide turned nuclear regulator, patiently fielded questions from the wary representatives of a concerned America. If it was the tsunami that did the real damage in Japan, then what about a tornado here? Or

terrorists? Or hurricanes? Blackouts? Or what about a quake like the one “that hit San Francisco in 1906?”

Again and again, Jaczko offered variations on a few themes: It’s too early to speculate on what happened in Japan. All the plants we’ve licensed and those we are reviewing meet strict site specific ~~site specific~~ standards for earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis and, since September 11, terrorist attacks. We determine the largest earthquake likely to occur and how much it will shake a reactor, and then we require the plant to be able to withstand that and a little bit more.

At the March 16 hearing, Jaczko illustrated his point by pointing to a glass of water on the table in front of him and saying, “If you think of this as the nuclear power plant . . . when you talk about the magnitude of the earthquake, it would be like me hitting the table with my fist. Something like that.” Banging the witness table. “And you’ll see it makes the glass over here vibrate.”

“What we actually measure, and we design our nuclear power plants around, is that shaking of the power plant,” Jaczko explained. “So the actual impact depends on where I hit in relation to the glass. A large earthquake that’s very far away, may

not have the same impact on a site as an earthquake that's maybe a little bit less, but much closer, so something like that," Jaczko said striking again, less forcefully, nearer the glass.

And, as he has at almost every public appearance since March 11, Jaczko repeated a promise: The NRC's review of events in Japan will be "systematic and methodical" and any new lessons will be applied to U.S. reactors.

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin; 'Damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov'; Vietor, Tommy;
'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov'; 'Stephanie.Mueller@hq.doe.gov'; Reynolds, Tom; Shapiro,
Nicholas S.; Jensen, Robert R.
Subject: RE: NY Times -- Technical Postmordum of Japan

(b)(5)

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto: (b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:10 PM
To: 'Damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov'; Vietor, Tommy; 'Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov'; 'Stephanie.Mueller@hq.doe.gov';
Reynolds, Tom; Brenner, Eliot; Shapiro, Nicholas S.; Jensen, Robert R.
Subject: Re: NY Times -- Technical Postmordum of Japan

(b)(5)

Thanks! -CH

----- Original Message -----

From: LaVera, Damien <Damien.LaVera@nnsa.doe.gov>
To: Vietor, Tommy; Leistikow, Dan <Dan.Leistikow@hq.doe.gov>; Mueller, Stephanie <Stephanie.Mueller@hq.doe.gov>;
Reynolds, Tom; 'Eliot Brenner (eliot.brenner@nrc.gov)' <eliot.brenner@nrc.gov>; Shapiro, Nicholas S.; Hayden, Caitlin;
Jensen, Robert R.
Sent: Thu Mar 31 11:11:57 2011
Subject: NY Times -- Technical Postmordum of Japan

Hi all --

(b)(5)

Before we proceed, we wanted to check with you guys.

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:44 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - Nuclear Regulatory Commission

News

6 new results for **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

NRC: 3 US nuclear plants need closer review

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** says three US nuclear power plants need increased oversight from federal regulators, although officials stressed that all are operating safely. NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko (YAHT'-skoh) says the three ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

US Response to Japan's Crisis Should Be a New Spent Fuel Strategy, Senate ...

New York Times

The Energy Department seeks to withdraw "with prejudice" the government's license application submitted to the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** -- a decision that Yucca Mountain project supporters are challenging in the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Green: U.S. Dropped Nuclear Rule Meant to Avert Hydrogen Explosions

New York Times (blog)

The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** has allowed reactors to phase out some equipment that eliminates explosive hydrogen, the gas that blew up the outer containments of three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi in Japan. The commission says it judged that ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)



New York Times
(blog)

Will Fukushima Pull a Vermont Nuclear Plant Off the Rails?

Reuters

"The irony of this can't be overestimated," executive director of the anti-nuclear Citizens Awareness Network, Deborah Katz told the Daily Hampshire Gazette, noting that the delay was caused by NRC helping Japanese nuclear officials with the problems ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Mothers against the Diablo Canyon reactor

Fortune

"We know that PG&E has been cited by the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** [NRC] for maintenance problems with getting off-sight power, and with the emergency cooling, and the spent fuel pools," she said matter-of-factly, her compact frame in fight ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Nuclear Plant Manager Files Whistleblower Suit Against California Utility

FairWarning

As Reuters reports, the firing came after the federal **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** sent a warning letter in March, 2010, to Southern California Edison, the principal owner of the San Onofre plant. It rebuked the utility for a workplace climate that, ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Tip: Use quotes ("like this") around a set of words in your query to match them exactly. [Learn more.](#)

[Remove](#) this alert.

[Create](#) another alert.

[Manage](#) your alerts.

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - jaczko

News

1 new result for jaczko

US Response to Japan's Crisis Should Be a New Spent Fuel Strategy, Senate ...

New York Times

Feinstein challenged Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory **Jaczko** on that conclusion at yesterday's hearing. "We must begin to rethink how we handle spent fuel," Feinstein. "I'm amazed at the idea of storing it there for 100 years. ...

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

Tip: Use quotes ("like this") around a set of words in your query to match them exactly. [Learn more.](#)

[Remove](#) this alert.
[Create](#) another alert.
[Manage](#) your alerts.

BU/1185

From: Couret, Ivonne
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:56 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Media Interview Request

FYI - I have given the standard line on media request, but this is the latest request from the largest media market. Ivonne

Hello,

My name is Ben Bevington and I am the Washington producer for BBC Newsnight, the UK's flagship daily news and current affairs TV programme. It is the BBC's equivalent to Nightline or 60 Minutes.

I'd like to talk to somebody please for help with our coverage on safety at nuclear power stations and the lessons learned from the disaster in Japan. We're looking for two things:

1. a LIVE INTERVIEW for tomorrow FRIDAY APRIL 1 with a spokesman from the NRC who can explain how the agency is responding to concerns raised by Fukushima and why it is confident that the US nuclear industry is better prepared. This would follow a short news story and be at 5.30pm EST - we could do it from our studio in Washington.
2. I'm also working on a much more in-depth 15-minute investigative/analysis TV piece with our Science Editor Susan Watts to run later in Europe. It would be great to talk to someone at the NRC as part of my research. And to see what filming opportunities there may be. We want to highlight the extra safety and security measures in place at US plants so is there any way to join a team of inspectors on a tour?

This would be for a high-profile BBC story that would be shown in the US as well as internationally on the BBC's global TV, radio and online outlets.

If someone is free to chat by phone today that would be incredibly helpful. My number is 202 2439306.

Thank you for your help with this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Ben Bevington

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

BU/1186

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:14 PM
To: Uselding, Lara; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne
Cc: Dricks, Victor
Subject: RE: CNN : Radiation found in milk samples _ CA and Washington /FW: Websites Noted At 1000 Regarding I-131 in Milk

Ivonne also sent info on to whom to refer calls earlier today . . .

From: Uselding, Lara
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; McIntyre, David; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne
Cc: Dricks, Victor
Subject: CNN : Radiation found in milk samples _ CA and Washington /FW: Websites Noted At 1000 Regarding I-131 in Milk

This is going to get some attention. FDA is addressing this on its site below

From: Alexander, Ryan
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:48 AM
To: Uselding, Lara
Cc: Carson, Louis
Subject: Websites Noted At 1000 Regarding I-131 in Milk

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/03/31/radiation.us/index.html?hpt=T2>

<http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm247403.htm>

As a reference...

The media report is I-131 is being found at 5000 times lower "than the limit set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration".

The FDA DIL (derived intervention level) for I-131 in milk is 170 Bq/kg (bequerels per kilogram)

So assuming 170 Bq/kg divided by 5000 = ~0.034 Bq/kg is being measured

But in more common (US) units – 0.034 Bq/kg = ~0.9 picoCuries/kg = 0.00000009 microCuries/kg

As noted by the CNN article "FDA senior scientist Patricia Hansen also said the findings are "miniscule" compared to what people experience every day."

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Silence on team activities gets nasty comment

I just put up a comment from someone trashing the public affairs effort about the Japan situation, especially the silence about the team activities. The commenter says we said we sent people and then never said what they're doing/finding/learning etc. Do we have any plans? Now that some team members have rotated back, could I work with one to write a blog post (carefully coordinated with high powers, of course.)

Holly

BU/1188

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:30 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Change in Ops Center / CA Call

Will conflict with today's OPA conference call, but I can add to my calendar for tomorrow

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:05 AM
To: Harrington, Holly; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Re: Change in Ops Center / CA Call

I have been. Yes we should. I cannot today.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

From: Harrington, Holly
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Thu Mar 31 08:41:49 2011
Subject: FW: Change in Ops Center / CA Call

As far as I know, no one is listening in on these from OPA. I wonder if we should?

From: LIA07 Hoc
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 5:30 PM
To: Andersen, James; Anderson, Joseph; Ash, Darren; Baggett, Steven; Barker, Allan; Batkin, Joshua; Boger, Bruce; Borchardt, Bill; Bradford, Anna; Brenner, Eliot; Smith, Brooke; Brown, Milton; Bubar, Patrice; Burns, Stephen; Camper, Larry; Carpenter, Cynthia; Castleman, Patrick; Ader, Charles; Casto, Chuck; Coggins, Angela; Collins, Elmo; ConE_Resource; Copeland, Douglas; Correia, Richard; Craffey, Ryan; Dapas, Marc; Dean, Bill; Decker, David; Diaz-Sanabria, Yoira; Dickman-Disabled-11/14/2010, Paul; Dorman, Dan; Droggitis, Spiros; Dyer, Jim; English, Lance; ET02 Hoc; Evans, Michele; Franovich, Mike; Frye, Timothy; Garmon, David; Apostolakis, George; Gibbs, Catina; Giitter, Joseph; Gott, William; Grobe, Jack; Hahn, Matthew; Haney, Catherine; Harrington, Holly; Hipschman, Thomas; Hoc, PMT12; Holahan, Gary; Holahan, Patricia; HOO Hoc; Howe, Allen; Howell, Art; Howell, Linda; Issa, Alfred; Itzkowitz, Marvin; Foster, Jack; Jackson, Donald; Jaczko, Gregory; Johnson, Andrea; Johnson, Michael; Jones, Cynthia; Kahler, Robert; King, Mark; Foggie, Kirk; Kock, Andrea; Kozal, Jason; Leeds, Eric; LIA01 Hoc; LIA02 Hoc; LIA03 Hoc; LIA06 Hoc; LIA08 Hoc; LIA11 Hoc; Logaras, Harral; Loyd, Susan; Magwood, William; Maier, Bill; Marshall, Jane; Marshall, Michael; McCree, Victor; McDermott, Brian; McNamara, Nancy; Miller, Charles; Miller, Chris; Monninger, John; Morris, Scott; Nease, Rebecca; Nieh, Ho; NRCHQ; NSIR_DDSP_ILTAB_Distribution; Ordaz, Vonna; Orders, William; OST05 Hoc; Ostendorff, William; Pace, Patti; Patel, Jay; Pearson, Laura; Pederson, Cynthia; Plisco, Loren; Powell, Amy; Quichocho, Jessie; R1 IRC; R2 IRC; R3 IRC; R4 IRC; Reddick, Darani; Reyes, Luis; Devercelly, Richard; Nelson, Robert; ROO hoc; Rothschild, Trip; RST01 Hoc; Satorius, Mark; Schmidt, Rebecca; Sharkey, Jeffry; Sheron, Brian; Sigmon, Rebecca; Snodderly, Michael; Sosa, Belkys; Speiser, Herald; Svinicki, Kristine; Tabatabai, Omid; Thoma, John; Thomas, Eric; Tift, Doug; Kolb, Timothy; Ulses, Anthony; Nakanishi, Tony; Tracy, Glenn; Trapp, James; Trojanowski, Robert; Uhle, Jennifer; Virgilio, Martin; Warnick, Greg; Warren, Roberta; Weber, Michael; Westreich, Barry; Wiggins, Jim; Cook, William; Williams, Kevin; Wittick, Brian; Woodruff, Gena; Zimmerman, Roy; Zimmerman, Roy; Zorn, Jason
Subject: Change in Ops Center / CA Call

The CA briefing call will now take place once daily at 10am EDT. If conditions change, warranting an additional call or an adjustment in the call schedule, you will be notified.

Please share this information with anyone I may have missed who participates in the call.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

-Sara

Sara Mroz

Executive Briefing Team Coordinator

LIA07.HOC@nrc.gov (Operations Center)

From: ANS.HOC@nrc.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:26 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: ACTION: Commissioners Assistants Briefing Notification
Attachments: NRC Status Update 3.31.11--0430.pdf

This is the Headquarters Operations Officer. There will be a Commissioners Assistants Briefing given by the Executive Team at 1000 hrs. on 3/31/11, concerning the events in Japan. Call (b)(6) approximately 5 minutes before the scheduled start time. When prompted, enter the security code (b)(6) repeat (b)(6). Please respond to the voice prompts indicating whether you plan to participate in the briefing.

From: Joe Gilliland <(b)(6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: I'm available

Eliot and Beth---

If you need any extra help in public affairs during this Japanese situation, I'm available.

joe

Joe T. Gilliland

(b)(6)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:48 PM
To: 'MHH02277@nifty.com'; OPA Resource
Cc: Couret, Ivonne
Subject: Re: responding to your question

I believe the chairman was referring to the distance japan has referenced. For the reason I mentioned in my previous message we are holding to 50 mile figure.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: (b)(6)
To: OPA Resource
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Couret, Ivonne; Toshihiko Katsuda <mhh02277@nifty.com>
Sent: Wed Mar 30 19:40:15 2011
Subject: Re: responding to your question

Mr. Brenner,

Thank you so much for your reply.

I understand that NRC is not changing its recommendation. But I am a little bit confused with the term "safe distance." Would you clarify its meaning? Why the evacuation range stays the same 50 miles even though "safe distance" is 20 miles?

According to Sen. Lauderdale, Dr. Jaczko testified that the "safe distance" was 20 miles in another Senate hearing probably at March 16 when NRC's recommendation was announced.

If so, NRC's judgement of "safe distance" has not changed. Is it correct? But a story in Bloomberg.com implies that the Dr. Jaczko rethinks the judgement after his return from Japan.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-30/feinstein-urges-u-s-review-of-nuclear-waste-amid-japan-crisis.html>

Thank you so much.

Toshi Katsuda

On Wed, Mar 30, 2011 at 7:17 PM, Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

> Toshi: I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. No, we are
> not changing our recommendation. This remains a very fluid situation
> and our recommendation stands.
>

Bu/1192

>
>
> Although I have responded to you directly, I am on the run quite a bit
> with our chairman and if you have further questions please continue to
> funnel them through our primary office email account.

>
>
>
> Thanks, and again my apologies for the delay in responding.

>
>
>
> Eliot

>
> Eliot Brenner
> Director, Office of Public Affairs
> Nuclear Regulatory Commission
> Rockville, Md.
> O: 301-415-8200
> C: (b)(6)

--
Toshihiko Katsuda
Science Correspondent
The ASAHI Shimbun (Japanese daily newspaper) American General Bureau National Press Bldg. #1022, 529 14th St., NW
Washington, D.C., 20045 USA
Phone: +1-202-783-1000
Fax: +1-202-783-0039
E-mail: MHH02277@nifty.com

From: Virgilio, Martin
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:11 PM
To: Sanfilippo, Nathan; Cubbage, Amy; Hayden, Elizabeth; Brenner, Eliot; Miller, Charles; Wiggins, Jim; Evans, Michele; Borchardt, Bill
Subject: Fw: Task Force Charter

Charlie

(b)(5)

Please work with Beth on the press release.

Marty

From: Jaczko, Gregory
To: Virgilio, Martin
Cc: Coggins, Angela; Batkin, Joshua; Miller, Charles; Borchardt, Bill; Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wed Mar 30 12:28:23 2011
Subject: RE: Task Force Charter

(b)(5)

Thanks,

From: Virgilio, Martin
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:37 AM
To: Jaczko, Gregory
Cc: Coggins, Angela; Batkin, Joshua; Miller, Charles; Borchardt, Bill; Loyd, Susan; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Task Force Charter
Importance: High

Chairman

Attached is the final draft of our Task Force Charter. We would appreciate your approval. Should you have any comments or want to discuss this proposal Charlie, Bill or I will make ourselves available.

As an aside, we are working with OPA on a communications plan and roll out strategy.

Marty

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:08 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: Change in Commissioners Assistants Briefing Notification

From: ANS.HOC@nrc.gov [mailto:ANS.HOC@nrc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 5:42 PM
Subject: FYI: Change in Commissioners Assistants Briefing Notification

Please note that there will NOT be a Commissioners Assistants Briefing tonight. The briefing has been changed to a once per day event which is now scheduled to begin at 10:00 am EDT, tomorrow, 3/31/2011.

Bu/1194

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:06 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

~~Internal use only -- no distribution outside NRC -- no redistribution~~
~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

JAPAN

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING – The chairman testified today before our Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee, taking on questions largely centered on spent fuel pools, fuel storage in general, reprocessing and emergency preparedness. Afterwards there was a major scrum with reporters, the bulk of them from Japanese media, about his trip to Japan. We expect more of the same tomorrow at our budget hearing before our House Appropriators.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/30/senators-press-u-s-officials-on-storage-of-spent-nuclear-fuel/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

The President delivered an energy speech today and reaffirmed his support for nuclear power and noted his request for the NRC to look at lessons to be learned from the Japan reactor problems. Meanwhile, headquarters OPA also talked on the record, off the record and on background with the New York Times about regulations on hydrogen recombiners, igniters, etc., and with the LATimes about the Japanese reactors. Headquarters also talked to, among others, Xinhua, CNN.com, Fuel Cycle Week, and Milwaukee Public Radio. Multiple regional outlets had Japan and/or plant-related questions, among them:

Bloomberg about Indian Point and a report on EP there done earlier in the last decade by former FEMA Director James Lee Witt. We were also asked to comment on legislation proposed by Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., to change plant relicensing regulations.

MASS. GOV MEETING – Region I Administrator Bill Dean met with Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick this afternoon to answer questions about possible implications of the Japan reactor events on plants the state cares about: Pilgrim, Seabrook and Vermont Yankee. The meeting went well. Afterwards, Mr. Dean read a statement to a small crowd of reporters on the nature of the meeting. He deferred questions to the Office of Public Affairs.

ILLINOIS SENATE TESTIMONY – Regional Administrator Mark Satorius will be providing testimony to Illinois Senate Energy Committee about the safety of nuclear plants in Illinois at 8:30 am tomorrow.

IODINE DETECTION—OPA spoke to a reporter from the Chicago tribune and WBEZ- Chicago public radio about Illinois plants detecting Iodine.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN - OPA fielded questions in Region III about the situation in Japan increasing the chances of reviving or expediting the consideration of Yucca Mountain for long term fuel storage in light of the problems with spent fuel pools in Japan.

DIABLO CANYON – OPA spoke to the New Times reporter about the status of response by State and US Senators for a moratorium on relicensing.

NOVA – Gluttons for punishment watching the same footage over and over can tune in to PBS at 9 p.m. EDT tonight to watch a special on the Japanese quake.

NON JAPAN OR QUASI-JAPAN QUERIES

VERMONT YANKEE – Entergy has announced a 20-year power purchase agreement with a Vermont utility. Details are here: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/entergy-vermont-electric-cooperative-complete-negotiations-on-power-contract-118941719.html>

In addition, The Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer requested additional information on a 2.206 petition we have accepted regarding Vermont Yankee main steam relief valves. We provided clarification. The reporter also wanted information on how a boiling-water reactor like Vermont Yankee would cope with a loss-of-coolant accident.

NEW ENGLAND REACTORS – We are getting hit with multiple questions by reporters doing work under the auspices of the New England Center for Investigative Journalism. Topics include decommissioning funding, the agency's historic approach to lessons learned and research reactors. We're told the stories will run via media outlets throughout the region when ready, rather than as part of a series.

PIRG REPORT – More questions are flowing in regarding the report issued Tuesday by the PIRG national organization and its state affiliates. We were among those to ask about the report today.

BROWNS FERRY -- Our news release scheduling an enforcement conference with Browns Ferry related to the failure of a low pressure coolant injection valve drew a call and questions from the Chattanooga Times-Free Press.

TURKEY POINT – Region II OPA did a phone interview with WPLG-TV in Miami to answer a series of questions about the COL application for the two additional units at Turkey Point. Many of the questions were process-oriented and it is unclear exactly when the station plans to complete the story.

WOLF CREEK - OPA did a recorded interview with a talk radio station in Topeka about Wolf Creek

And in an encouraging sign that the "Old Normal" may be reasserting itself, an environmental researcher called with several questions about the Russian takeover of US uranium recovery operations.

Press releases and speeches posted

The Chairman's Senate testimony was posted, as was Mike Weber's House testimony:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/congress-docs/congress-testimony/2011/>

Also, releases on meetings involving Erwin, Browns Ferry and Surry

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of
EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 6:30 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News From EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of
Wednesday, March 30, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Obama's push for cuts in oil imports faces political, industry obstacles

Natural gas prices rise on Obama, colder weather

UN: High radiation outside Japan's exclusion zone

Poll: Americans less optimistic on economy

Reuters: Obama approved covert aid to Libyan rebels weeks ago

Bromwich attracts criticism from both ends of political spectrum

Oil gone in 50 years, says HSBC

Shell gets first permit for a new deepwater well

Senators challenge NRC over spent fuel storage practices

Arizona, Missouri officials assured that nuclear stations are prepared for blackouts

Prius production stalled by quake; Demand has been soaring

Less shutdown talk as budget negotiations resume

White House collecting ideas for Clean Energy Standard

Daybook: Upcoming events

**Obama's push for cuts in oil imports faces political, industry
obstacles**

BU/1196

By Edward Felker

Declaring that "there are no quick fixes" to the problem of higher gasoline prices, President Barack Obama on Wednesday called for steps to reduce oil imports by a third by 2025 and criticized oil companies for not drilling on federal lands they already lease.

Reaction indicated that Obama's push will have to overcome many of the same obstacles he faced in trying to push through a cap on carbon emissions last year. House Speaker John Boehner's office said Obama's speech amounted to "no new ideas, and no new energy, either."

In a speech billed as a transition from his recent foreign policy focus to one on domestic challenges, Obama said rising gasoline prices illustrate the nation's dependence on foreign oil supplies is not sustainable.

"The United States of America cannot afford to bet our long-term prosperity, our long-term security, on a resource that will eventually run out," Obama said.

The program to reduce oil imports, contained in a new "Blueprint for A Secure Energy Future" initiative, mostly reiterates proposals Obama has previously outlined, including federal incentives for natural gas-powered trucks and buses and higher auto mileage standards.

"I felt like today was a great move forward for the Pickens Plan and the national security of our country," said T. Boone Pickens, referring to Obama's call for Congress to help switch heavy vehicles from diesel to natural gas.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, however, said Obama was advocating more top-down energy policies that have already been rejected by lawmakers and the public. Karen Harbert, president of the chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy, said the plan "amounts to a command-and-control approach that stifles the very private sector that it depends upon."

Obama said he supports more offshore drilling, possibly in Atlantic and Alaskan coastal waters, "as long as it's safe and responsible."

He struck back at critics in the oil industry who say the Interior Department has been slow to allow new wells in the Gulf of Mexico. Obama noted the approval in recent weeks of new offshore permits that meet higher safety standards; and a steady pace of onshore permit approvals. And he pointed out that large areas on federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf already being leased by energy companies are not being developed.

"Any claim that my Administration is responsible for gas prices because we've 'shut down' oil production, any claim like that is simply untrue," he said. Obama added that he will unveil new incentives to push oil and gas companies to drill on their existing leased acres, presumably through higher annual rental fees, shorter lease terms, or both. "They're just sitting on supplies of energy that

are ready to be tapped," he said.

That message was rejected by the oil lobby. "While the president talks a good game, his administration is putting in place policies that halt, rather than encourage, the production of US energy," said Barry Russell, president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich., issued a statement that contended the speech perpetuated the "blame game" against oil companies, and that shorter lease terms won't lead to more drilling on existing leases. "We are confronted with a permitting problem, not a leasing problem," the statement said.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said Obama needs to grant more drilling permits to prove his support for domestic oil and gas exploration. "The recent deepwater permits issued by the Interior Department are encouraging, but if the president is serious about reducing our dependency on foreign oil, then we need to rapidly accelerate the permitting process in the gulf to increase production," she said.

Obama argued that more domestic production will not meet U.S. energy needs, and that demand must be reduced through efficiency and more renewable energy sources. He pledged to put the federal government behind the building of four commercially viable cellulosic biofuels refineries, and said he will order the government to purchase only alternative fuel-powered, hybrid or electric vehicles by 2015. The proposals were cheered by the biofuels lobby, which has struggled to advance cellulosic ethanol production to commercial usage.

Obama voiced continued support for an expansion of nuclear power, incorporating safety information from the Japan nuclear plant failure, and for low-carbon electricity generation through a clean energy standard.

Obama in January proposed a 80 percent standard by 2050 that incorporates nuclear, clean coal, and renewable energy, but the plan has yet to win support in Congress.

Natural gas prices rise on Obama, colder weather

By Chris Kahn

NEW YORK (AP) — Natural gas prices climbed Wednesday as President Barack Obama said he wanted the U.S. to use more of it instead of foreign oil. Colder weather also pushed up prices, as forecasters predicted a cold snap for much of the country in coming weeks.

Natural gas for May delivery rose 8 cents to \$4.339 per 1,000 cubic feet in afternoon trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Prices rose as Obama announced that he wants to cut the country's oil imports by a third by 2025. The president touted a series of initiatives, emphasizing that the U.S. could rely more on its own natural gas and biofuels to power vehicles and produce electricity.

Fadel Gheit, an energy analyst with Oppenheimer & Co., said the strategy makes sense: "We have abundance of natural gas in this country and the best technology in the world. We should capitalize on that."

Natural gas prices remain in about the same range they've been in for three years as the recession and a surge in domestic production have kept prices in check. The price of oil, which the U.S. imports primarily from Canada, Saudi Arabia and Mexico, has jumped in that period, rising 27 percent in last 12 months alone.

Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research, said Obama's continued endorsement of natural gas drilling will convince investors to be more bullish about natural gas. But government policies usually don't affect short-term supply or consumption. Most traders are keeping a closer eye on the weather, which is expected to remain unseasonably chilly in April.

"We're expecting snow," said Lynch, who is based in Winchester, Mass. "Cold weather is going to keep natural gas demand high." That's helped boost prices, he said.

AccuWeather forecasters said Wednesday that chilly weather could linger in northern parts of the country into May or June.

Meanwhile, benchmark crude for May delivery fell 16 cents to \$104.64 per barrel on the Nymex. In London, Brent crude added 15 cents at \$115.11 on the ICE Futures exchange.

In its weekly report on petroleum supplies, the Energy Department said U.S. crude supplies rose by 2.9 million barrels last week. Gasoline supplies fell by 2.7 million barrels.

Gasoline pump prices continue to rise. The national average added nearly a penny on Wednesday at \$3.595 per gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular has jumped by 22.7 cents in the last month and by 80 cents since this time last year.

In other Nymex trading for April contracts, heating oil was flat at \$3.0595 per gallon and gasoline added 2 cents at \$3.0624 per gallon.

UN: High radiation outside Japan's exclusion zone

By George Jahn

VIENNA (AP) — Recent radiation readings outside the exclusion zone around Japan's nuclear disaster show radiation substantially higher than levels at which the U.N. nuclear agency would recommend evacuations, agency officials said Wednesday.

The comments could add to the debate over how far people need to stay away from Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex, which was crippled in the country's March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Elena Buglova, an official from the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the reading was 2 megabecquerels per square meter at the village of Iitate, adding that "as a ratio it was about two times higher" than levels at which the agency recommends evacuations.

Iitate is about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the Fukushima complex where emergency crews are battling to keep radioactivity from spreading.

Japanese officials have told residents to evacuate within a 12-mile (20-kilometer) zone and to stay indoors within 18 miles (30 kilometers) of the damaged complex, but U.S. officials have recommended citizens stay at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) away.

The officials emphasized that the readings at the village of Iitate were sporadic and only at one measuring point. They did not say exactly when the readings were taken but mentioned them along with radiation measurements of iodine 131 and cesium 137 in soil samples between March 18 and March 26.

Denis Flory, a senior IAEA official, demurred when asked whether the agency was recommending that the village be cleared of residents but said it had advised Japanese authorities to "carefully assess the situation."

"The highest values were found in a relatively small area in the northwest from the Fukushima power plant and the first assessment indicates that one of the IAEA operational criteria for evacuation is exceeded in Iitate village," he told reporters.

Buglova also indicated the readings were preliminary saying "there is a range of uncertainty involved."

Japan's health ministry has previously advised Iitate villagers not to drink tap water due to elevated levels of iodine.

Separately, agency officials said Singapore authorities had measured radiation readings from cabbage imported from Japan that were up to nine times above international recommended safety levels — iodine 131 readings of up to 936 becquerels per kilogram.

Earlier, IAEA head Yukiya Amano told reporters that he had issued invitations

to government ministers from the agency's 151 member nations to attend a June conference on safety procedures at nuclear plants worldwide in the wake of the Japan disaster.

Amano said the conference will focus on assessments of the Fukushima Dai-ichi disaster and lessons that need to be learned from it.

Veronika Oleksyn contributed to this report.

Poll: Americans less optimistic on economy

By Liz Sidoti

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all the talk of recovery, Americans are growing increasingly pessimistic about the economy as soaring gas costs strain already-tight budgets. So far, people aren't taking it out on President Barack Obama, a new Associated Press-GfK poll shows.

Even so, the survey highlights a central challenge Obama will face in his campaign for re-election. The president will have to convince a lot of voters who are still feeling financial hardship that things are getting better.

Obama's approval ratings have held steady at around 50 percent over the past month. But the disconnect between negative perceptions of the economy and signs that a rebound are under way could provide an opening for Republicans at the outset of the 2012 campaign.

In the survey, just a sliver of Americans — 15 percent — said they believed the economy had improved over the past month, compared with 30 percent who had thought that in January. Only a third were optimistic of better times ahead for the country, down from about half earlier this year. And 28 percent thought the economy would get worse, the largest slice of people who have expressed that sentiment since the question was first asked in December 2009.

"It's in a poor state," said Billy Shirley, 74, a Democrat from Commerce, Ga. "Everything's going to the bad. Everyone's spending more on gas, food, everything. The prices on everything are going up, and that's hurting the nation."

Recent economic indicators paint a more positive picture: The unemployment rate, though still high at 8.9 percent, has been declining, and consumer spending and personal income were both up last month. The gross domestic product was growing at an annual rate of 3.1 percent as last year ended.

Americans are acutely focused on their financial well-being, even as turmoil in the Middle East commands international attention. And the foreign unrest is directly affecting them by boosting oil prices. More Americans — 77 percent, up

from 54 percent last fall — now say gas prices are highly important to them.

Obama's job-performance ratings haven't suffered as people's attitudes about the economy have shifted over the past month.

Half still approve of how he's doing his job, and half say he deserves to be re-elected. His rating on handling the economy was unchanged: 47 percent approved. In fact, twice as many people said Obama "understands the important issues the country will need to focus on during the next two years" as said that about Republicans in Congress.

Obama inherited an economy in recession. Republicans angling for the chance to challenge him next fall have been blaming him for the slow recovery and arguing they could do better. Presidential advisers are hopeful that the positive economic trends continue, giving Obama an opportunity to make the case for keeping him in office rather than risk an economic backslide.

As the slow-to-start GOP nomination fight starts in earnest this spring, the poll shows that candidates clearly have work to do.

More than or nearly half of Republicans surveyed say they don't know enough about the following potential contenders to even express an opinion about them: Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann.

Roughly two-thirds of Republicans expressed favorable views of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, while former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney got slightly lower marks.

Even though many of the candidates aren't well-known, about half of Republicans say they are satisfied with their choices.

Reuters: Obama approved covert aid to Libyan rebels weeks ago

President Obama signed a presidential finding earlier this month that authorizes covert American aid to the rebels in Libya, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

Bromwich attracts criticism from both ends of political spectrum

BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich was hit with complaints on Capitol Hill from Republicans upset about the slow pace of drilling permits, and Democrats who contend he's not being cautious enough, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Oil gone in 50 years, says HSBC

The British bank HSBC contends in a new report that current consumption rates will exhaust global oil reserves in about 50 years, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Shell gets first permit for a new deepwater well

Shell was awarded the first government permit for a new deepwater Gulf of Mexico well since the Deepwater Horizon blowout, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Senators challenge NRC over spent fuel storage practices

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., pushed Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko to defend the U.S. nuclear industry's storage of spent fuel in on-site pools, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

The Wall Street Journal reports that Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., also pressed Jaczko, who said current methods of underwater and dry cask storage are considered safe for decades to come.

[Read more](#)

Arizona, Missouri officials assured that nuclear stations are prepared for blackouts

Representatives of the Palo Verde nuclear plant near Phoenix assured state electricity regulators that they are prepared for an emergency, The Arizona Republic reports.

[Read more](#)

The Kansas City Star reports that officials of the Wolf Creek plant in Kansas and the Callaway plant in Missouri assured the Missouri Public Service Commission that their backup systems are ready if the station loses power.

[Read more](#)

Prius production stalled by quake; Demand has been soaring

Toyota reported record sales of its gas-sipping hybrid Prius automobile, with deliveries stymied by production shutdowns following the March 11 earthquake off Japan's northeast coast, Bloomberg reports.

[Read more](#)

Less shutdown talk as budget negotiations resume

Budget discussions resumed on Capitol Hill, lessening fears of a government shutdown next week when the current short-term spending law expires, Reuters reports.

[Read more](#)

White House collecting ideas for Clean Energy Standard

Outside groups have been asked to give their suggestions to the White House for President Barack Obama's proposed 80-percent clean energy standard,

ClimateWire reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Mar. 31, Washington: House Environment and Economy Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 908, extending the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. DHS Under Secretary Beers to testify. 9:00 am, Rayburn 2322.
- Mar. 31, Washington: Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing on S. 629, S. 630, and Title I, subtitle D of 2009 ACELA bill. 9:30 am, Dirksen 366.
- Mar. 31, Washington: House Science Committee hearing, "Climate Change: Examining the Processes Used to Create Science and Policy." 10:00 am, Rayburn 2318.
- Mar. 31, Washington: Senate HELP Committee hearing on Upper Big Branch Mine disaster. MSHA Admin. Joe Main, Labor Dept. Asst. Inspector General Elliot Lewis to testify. 10:00 am, Dirksen 430.
- Mar. 31, Washington: House Natural Resources holds second hearing, "Harnessing American Resources to Create Jobs and Address Rising Gasoline Prices: Domestic Resources and Economic Impacts." 10:00 am, Longworth 1324.

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You can e-mail us at energy@washingtonguardian.net



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EnergyGuardian | 13303 Packard Drive | Woodbridge | VA | 22193

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Couret, Ivonne
Subject: Re: MEDIA - FW: Press inquiry about Chairman Jaczko's testimony

I will respond.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)

Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Couret, Ivonne

To: Brenner, Eliot

Sent: Wed Mar 30 16:27:55 2011

Subject: MEDIA - FW: Press inquiry about Chairman Jaczko's testimony

Eliot do you want to respond and shall I use your response as a statement to other media. Please advise? Ivonne

-----Original Message-----

From: Janbergs, Holly On Behalf Of OPA Resource

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:23 PM

To: Couret, Ivonne

Subject: FW: Press inquiry about Chairman Jaczko's testimony

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6) On Behalf Of Toshihiko Katsuda

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:17 PM

To: OPA Resource

Cc: Toshihiko Katsuda

Subject: Press inquiry about Chairman Jaczko's testimony

Dear Sir,

My name is Toshi Katsuda. I am a science correspondent of ASAHI Shimbun, Japanese daily.

Today, Chairman Jaczko testified at Senate Appropriation Committee. In his testimony, he discussed the evacuation recommendation around Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, saying, "of course as the events in Japan show that it was something that happened over the course of many, many days before we got to the point at which we looked at information that indicated you could have to go to a greater distance. So far, the data that is coming out of the plant continues to show that the safe distance there is approximately 20 miles."

His testimony seems to contradict NRC's recommendations issued in March 16th, that says, "It is appropriate for U.S. residents within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors to evacuate."

Is it fair to say that NRC is considering to update the recommendations? Otherwise, even though his evaluation of the situation changed, does NRC stay with the current recommendation?

Thank you.

Toshi Katsuda

--

Toshihiko Katsuda

Science Correspondent

The ASAHI Shimbun (Japanese daily newspaper) American General Bureau National Press Bldg. #1022, 529 14th St., NW
Washington, D.C., 20045 USA

Phone: +1-202-783-1000

Fax: +1-202-783-0039

E-mail: MHH02277@nifty.com

From: Chandrathil, Prema
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Cc: Mitlyng, Viktoria
Subject: Region 3 TNT

ILLINOIS SENATE TESTIMONY – Regional Administrator Mark Satorius will be providing testimony to Illinois Senate Energy Committee about the safety of nuclear plants in Illinois at 8:30 am tomorrow.

IODINE DETECTION—OPA spoke to a reporter from the Chicago tribune and WBEZ- Chicago public radio about Illinois plants detecting Iodine. We told the reporters that the NRC is aware of trace amounts of Iodine but they are not harmful levels. We also explained that EPA and DOE are monitoring and tracking the radiation.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN - OPA fielded questions about the situation in Japan increasing the chances of reviving or expediting the consideration of Yucca Mountain for long term fuel storage in light of the problems with spent fuel pools in Japan. We told the reporter that spent fuel pools were safe, that the NRC is a regulatory agency and isn't involved in policy decisions. The reporter asked about last week's Durbin/Kirk hearing. We confirmed that Yucca Mountain was a topic of discussion and referred the reporter to the Senators' offices for details on their positions. (The reporter seemed disingenuous and seemed to have a hidden agenda...)

Past media clips from region 3 we think were not picked up by the news service:

Toledo Blade – EPA revised policy on fish kills:

<http://toledoblade.com/State/2011/03/30/EPA-revises-policy-on-power-plants-fish.html>

Toledo WOOD –TV Davis-Besse reports elevated I-131:

<http://www.toledoonthemove.com/news/story.aspx?id=598936>

Chicago Examiner (a left-wing paper) on ABC reporting on Lochbaum's Report:

<http://www.examiner.com/homeland-security-in-chicago/report-reveals-u-s-nuclear-plant-woes-including-chicago>

<http://www.slate.com/id/2289016/>

<http://channahon-minooka.patch.com/articles/what-if-braidwood-or-dresden-had-a-meltdown>

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-03-14/news/ct-met-illinois-nuke-plants-ga-20110314_1_nuclear-plants-quad-cities-plants-nuclear-reactors/2

<http://qconline.com/archives/qco/display.php?id=537400>

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:33 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: tnt

JAPAN – Continuing questions on the Japan crisis and our review of US plants came from Xinhua, CNN.com, Fuel Cycle Week, and Milwaukee Public Radio.

And in an encouraging sign that the “Old Normal” may be reasserting itself, an environmental researcher called with several questions about the Russian takeover of US uranium recovery operations.

David McIntyre
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(301) 415-8206 (direct)
(b)(6) (mobile)
Protecting People & the Environment

From: Hayden, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:09 PM
To: 'wgpcnews@oecd-nea.org'
Subject: [wgpcnews] FW: Japan Crisis Overtakes Social Media - article from pew research

Dear Colleagues,

I thought you might be interested in this story about how social media is an important tool in communications.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
— Protecting People and the Environment
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1939/japan-earthquake-nuclear-reactors-blogs-twitter-you-tube> - interesting article with some stats on where most of the social activity was occurring as a result of the crisis. If you follow the link at the bottom, you can get to the full report where they provide some additional context on how each social media solution was used.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:04 PM
To: Daly, Matthew
Subject: RE: Jaczko back

Wish I could say yes, but I can't. We're about to start prepping him for tomorrow's little exercise. I think he would stand with what he said to that unbelievable scrum outside the hearing room. And I thought the U.S. press was aggressive. That crowd would have followed us into the restroom if they could! There's an LA-based reporter for some Japanese newspaper whose phone number I'm going to block if it comes up one more time!

Eliot

From: Daly, Matthew [mailto:MDaly@ap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott
Subject: Jaczko back

Hi Gents,
I know Chairman in a hurry to leave today, but wanted to see if there is any way he and I could chat briefly today or tomorrow re his trip to Japan, what he learned, etc.
Thanks.
Matthew

Matthew Daly
Environment/Energy Correspondent
The Associated Press
1100 13th Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
202-641-9541 direct
(b)(6) cell
<http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

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[IP_US_DISC]msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:55 PM
To: Tracy, Tennille
Subject: RE: Jaczko on "safe distance" from Fukushima

Tracy: We look at all the data provided by Japan, TEPCO and that obtained by DOE. What is important here is that we retain our 50 mile recommendation to the Embassy for Americans because this is a situation still very much in flux.

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: Tracy, Tennille [mailto:Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:19 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Jaczko on "safe distance" from Fukushima

Sorry ... One other thing. I wanted to find out the data the US was basing its "safe" assessment on. Is this the DOE monitoring data that was released last week?

Tennille

From: Brenner, Eliot [Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:12 PM
To: Tracy, Tennille
Subject: RE: Jaczko on "safe distance" from Fukushima

Tracy: my apologies for the delay. I have been juggling a fair amount of things today.

We remain with our recommendation. The 20 miles was a reference to what the Japanese have now done (i.e. evacuate out to 30 km). We don't wait until we have confirmed doses above our protective action guidelines to take protective actions. We take prudent precautions to keep people from being in harms way and we still feel that given the current situation, including uncertainties, this remains the right call for American citizens.

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: Tracy, Tennille [mailto:Tennille.Tracy@dowjones.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:34 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Jaczko on "safe distance" from Fukushima

Hi Eliot ... The chairman said today that he thought a 20-mile evacuation around Fukushima was a "safe distance." Can you tell me what this is based on? Is this based on the DOE radiation monitoring? And does this mean the US will amend its 50-mile zone?

Thanks, t

Tennille Tracy
Dow Jones Newswires
Office: 202.862.6619
Cell: (b)(6)
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington D.C., 20036

From: Sheehan, Neil
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:49 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: TNT items

INDIAN POINT – Bloomsburg News Service wanted to know how the NRC responded to a report done by former FEMA chief James Lee Witt earlier in the decade regarding emergency plans for Indian Point. We explained that after a review by us and FEMA, we determined there was “reasonable assurance” the plans would work. Separately, WCBS Radio (of New York City) asked for our comment on legislation being proposed by U.S. Rep. Lowey (D-N.Y.) that would change plant relicensing regulations. We said that, currently, we have no plans to change the way we review license renewal applications.

NEW ENGLAND REACTORS – We are getting hit with multiple questions by reporters doing work under the auspices of the New England Center for Investigative Journalism. Topics include decommissioning funding, the agency’s historic approach to lessons learned and research reactors. We’re told the stories will run via media outlets throughout the region when ready, rather than as part of a series.

PIRG REPORT – More questions are flowing in regarding the report issued Tuesday by the PIRG national organization and its state affiliates. The report cited legacy operational issues at plants nationwide. The Calvert (Md.) Recorder and York (Pa.) Dispatch were among those to ask about the report today.

VERMONT YANKEE – The Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer requested additional information on a 2.206 petition we have accepted regarding Vermont Yankee main steam relief valves. We provided clarification. The reporter also wanted information on how a boiling-water reactor like Vermont Yankee would cope with a loss-of-coolant accident.

JAPAN RESPONSE – The Long Island (N.Y.) Business News sought details on our reviews in response to the Japan reactor events, with specific focus (for reasons not immediately clear) on Nine Mile Point 2.

To: 'mainichila@mainichi.com'
Subject: interview request

Jessica: I was out when you called. Ms. Hayden's message stands. I am aware of her response and I will not second guess or countermand it. Please submit any interview requests through the opa.resource@nrc.gov mailbox. We are rather busy and we do not have the resources to fulfil every request that comes our way. You are rather persistent, and I am rather insistent that you follow the path we have shown you.

All participants in the NRC effort have been directed to refer your calls to our staff back to this office.

Thank you.

Eliot Brenner

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

BU/1204

From: Royer, Deanna
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 2:02 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Phone Message

Jessica
Japanese Daily News
310-396-7547
Re: Phone interview and Ms. Hayden's response to them.

Deanna Royer
Contract Secretary
Division of New Reactor Licensing
(301) 415-7158
Deanna.Royer@nrc.gov

BU/1205

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:48 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: National Journal

He just was thrilled to be talking to you, Eliot....

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:47 PM
To: Loyd, Susan
Subject: RE: National Journal

I have the message. [REDACTED]

(b)(5)

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:46 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: National Journal

Eliot:

I forwarded a phone voicemail to you, but this is the first time I've used the new system, so am not confident that it reached you. Amin (Sinde?) called from the National Journal regarding a one-on-one discussion with one of their reporters during the first week in May. They want to do a live event, open to other media. Regarding Japan and implications for U.S. His phone number: 202-266-7326. Thanks.
S

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

BU/1206

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:48 PM
To: Batkin, Joshua; Loyd, Susan
Subject: POTUS on nukes

From greenwire:

And in light of the ongoing crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan, Obama also reiterated his commitment to ensuring that safe nuclear power remains a part of the United States' future energy portfolio.

In his State of the Union address, Obama called for producing 80 percent of U.S. electricity from clean energy sources -- which would include nuclear power -- by 2035. Nuclear power currently accounts for about 20 percent of electricity supplies.

Nuclear power "has important potential for increasing our electricity without adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere," Obama said. "But I'm determined to ensure that it's safe."

The president noted that he has already ordered a new comprehensive safety review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make sure that all existing nuclear energy facilities are safe.

"We'll incorporate those conclusions and lessons from Japan in designing and building the next generation of plants," Obama said. "And my administration is leading global discussions towards a new international framework in which all countries operate their nuclear plants without spreading dangerous nuclear materials and technology."

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

Bu/1207

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:48 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: The New Republic - Energy Policy, Powering the Economic Recovery event

OK. Thx

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:43 PM
To: Loyd, Susan
Subject: RE: The New Republic - Energy Policy, Powering the Economic Recovery event

(b)(5)

eliot

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:42 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: The New Republic - Energy Policy, Powering the Economic Recovery event

Eliot:

Please see below. My schedule shows that the Chairman has a Hill hearing that day, but that's in the afternoon. Don't know if he will be interested in doing this, but I can pose it to him if you think it's a good idea.

I am going to say that OPA will get back to her (and will then back out). Thanks.

S

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Maisie Allison [mailto:mallison@tnr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:35 PM
To: Loyd, Susan
Subject: The New Republic - Energy Policy, Powering the Economic Recovery event

Greetings Ms. Loyd,

BU/1208

My name is Maisie Allison—I direct events for The New Republic. On the morning of April 12th (8-10am) TNR is convening top policymakers for a strategic discussion of environmental policy in the context of economic recovery at the National Press Club. We're hoping Chairman Jaczko might find the time to join the program for a keynote panel discussion on U.S. nuclear policy and energy security in the aftermath of the crisis in Japan.

We're happy to accommodate the Chairman's schedule that morning. Senator John Kerry and C. Boyden Gray have confirmed for the event. Senator Jeff Bingaman is also tentative—and we should have confirmation from other senior policymakers in the coming few days.

When you have the chance, please let me know your thoughts!

Thank you very much for considering,

Maisie Allison

Maisie Allison

The New Republic

mallison@tnr.com

o. 202.508.4459

From: Milligan, Patricia
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: KI story

I'd say 100% -;)

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:21 PM
To: Milligan, Patricia
Cc: Harrington, Holly
Subject: RE: KI story

Substantially attributable to the fact he had good guidance

-----Original Message-----

From: Milligan, Patricia
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:13 PM
To: Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: KI story

He did a good job.

-----Original Message-----

From: Frommer, Fred [mailto:FFrommer@ap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:59 AM
To: Milligan, Patricia
Subject: KI story

Here it is - thanks for your help!

<http://yhoo.it/gf0TQF>

Fred

Frederic J. Frommer
Associated Press Writer
202 641 9536 w

(b)(6) c

ffrommer@ap.org

Follow me on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ffrommer>

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:10 PM
To: McIntyre, David
Subject: RE: 90-day review

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:10 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: 90-day review

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Roth [mailto:neroth@innuco.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:09 PM
To: McIntyre, David
Subject: Re: 90-day review

Was hoping to get some info about it before the pub goes out this evening. Isn't there anything else you can tell me?

For example, have all the members of the task force been identified?
Are former commissioners, like Pete Lyons, on the task force?

Thanks,
Nancy

On Mar 30, 2011, at 1:05 PM, McIntyre, David wrote:

> I don't know exactly when it will be issued; such things can be hard
> to predict.
>
> Meetings are already posted on the Commission schedule, even earlier
> than those.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Nancy Roth [mailto:neroth@innuco.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:04 PM
> To: McIntyre, David
> Subject: Re: 90-day review

>
> Is that coming out today, Dave?

>
> By Commission briefings you mean the 30, 60 and 90-day updates? --N.

>
>

Bu/1240

> On Mar 30, 2011, at 1:00 PM, McIntyre, David wrote:
>
>> We have a press release in the works with more detail about the task
>> force and its review. Some Commission briefings have already been
>> scheduled.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Nancy Roth [mailto:neroeth@innuco.com]
>> Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:08 AM
>> To: McIntyre, David
>> Subject: 90-day review
>>
>> Hi, David,
>>
>> Has the 90-day review of safety plans and procedures at U.S. nuclear
>> plants started yet?
>>
>> The Commission called for a task force to perform it--are you able
>> yet to supply all or at least some names and titles of task force
>> members?
>> Who is leading it?
>>
>> I ask all this b/c at yesterday's briefing of the Senate Committee on
>> Energy and Nat. Resources on new events in Japan I was struck at how
>> difficult it was for Pete Lyons and Bill Borchardt to answer a lot of
>> questions, due to the dearth of information yet available from
>> Japan--
>> and because the review has not been completed.
>>
>> It was clear that industry members are hard pressed to explain and
>> interpret the situation in Japan for the public. The study should
>> help.
>>
>> Many thanks,
>> Nancy
>

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:47 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth; Couret, Ivonne
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Powell, Amy; Belmore, Nancy; Batkin, Joshua
Subject: RE: Testimony for Senate

Perfect. Thanks.

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:34 PM
To: Loyd, Susan; Couret, Ivonne
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Powell, Amy; Belmore, Nancy
Subject: RE: Testimony for Senate

OCA posts the written testimony. We'll link to it from the Japan page.

Beth

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:25 AM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth; Couret, Ivonne
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: Testimony for Senate

Please make sure that this testimony is posted. Do you usually post the written or oral testimony?

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Susan Loyd

(b)(6)

From: Loyd, Susan
To: Batkin, Joshua
Sent: Tue Mar 29 17:01:17 2011
Subject: FW: Testimony for Senate

Josh:
Just in case the Chairman wants help tonight. I also sent these to myself at my home email, so I can help if needed too. The Chairman said he would do the cutting on the oral testimony himself tonight.
Susan

Susan K. Loyd

Bu/1211

Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:59 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Testimony for Senate

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

STATEMENT
BY GREGORY B. JACZKO, CHAIRMAN
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
TO THE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER
MARCH 30, 2011

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TO THE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER
MARCH 30, 2011

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(b)(5)

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:29 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Phone Interview Request

Trapp was one of the first NRC people to go to Japan.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
— *Protecting People and the Environment*
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 11:40 AM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: Fw: Phone Interview Request

Who is trapp and any idea why they would want him?

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Mainichi LA <mainichila@mainichi.com>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Wed Mar 30 11:36:20 2011
Subject: Phone Interview Request

To Mr. Brenner

This is Jessica with Japanese Daily News (Mainichi), based in Tokyo, Japan, working out of our Los Angeles bureau.

We would like to request a phone interview with Mr. James Trapp. Our deadline is approaching and need the interview done within today.

We look forward to speaking with him soon.

With regards,

Jessica Jung
The Mainichi Newspapers
Los Angeles Bureau
o: 310-396-7547
C: (b)(6)

BU/1212

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 12:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Interview Request for Chairman Jaczko

Mr. Brenner,

This is Mineko Tokito with The Yomiuri Shimbun. Thank you for your quick reply. We listened to today's hearing with great interest. Should Chairman Jaczko or Mr. Borchardt find the time to sit down with us in the future, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity. Thanks again for your reply.

Best,
Mineko Tokito

Mineko Tokito
Washington Reporter
The Yomiuri Shimbun
General Bureau of the Americas
Suite 802 National Press Building
529 14th st. NW Washington DC 20045

Office # (202) 783-0363
Fax # (202) 737-2050
Cell # (b)(5)

In a message dated 3/29/2011 8:07:08 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov writes:

Mr. Tokito: at the moment the chairman is not doing interviews. Should we decide to sit down with reporters, I will keep you in mind for an opportunity. He is testifying tomorrow before the Senate Appropriations Committee, 10 a.m. 138 Dirksen Senate Office Building. His testimony will cover the reactor situation. I will also keep in mind your request to interview Mr. Borchardt if time permits. As you can imagine, we have many requests and demands on our time are great.

Thank you for writing.

Eliot Brenner

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Interview Request for Chairman Jaczko

Good evening Mr. Brenner,

My name is Mineko Tokito and I am writing from The Yomiuri Shimbun Japanese Newspaper, Japan's largest daily. I would like to submit the following interview request to Chairman Jaczko in hope he may find some time to sit down with us. I apologize for sending this at a late hour. I can be reached at 202-783-0363 or at this email. Thank you in advance for your time.:

Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko

Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Jaczko:

My name is Testuro Yamada and I am a Washington-based Science correspondent for *The Yomiuri Shimbun*, Japan's largest daily newspaper. I understand you were briefly in Japan to assess the current situation at Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

I am aware you will be testifying before the Senate Committee on Appropriations following your visit, but I was wondering if I may be granted the opportunity to sit down with you in the coming days or weeks to receive guidance on joint US-Japan efforts to alleviate the situation on the ground and to ask how the latest reports of plutonium-contaminated soil and radioactive water found in and around the complex complicate the steps needed to contain what is believed to be a partial meltdown.

We understand that your position demands much of your time, but we are willing to work around your schedule. Since *The Yomiuri Shimbun* is Japan's largest newspaper, an interview with us would ensure that your views are conveyed to the biggest and most influential audience in Japan and around the globe.

Should an interview with you be difficult at this time, I would like the opportunity to speak with NRC Executive Director for Operations, Bill Borchardt, sometime by mid-April.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mineko Tokito at (202) 783-0363 or yama3100@yomiuri.com or (b)(6), respectively. I hope to hear from you

soon.

Sincerely,

Tetsuro Yamada
Staff Correspondent
Washington Bureau

Mineko Tokito
Washington Reporter
The Yomiuri Shimbun
General Bureau of the Americas
Suite 802 National Press Building
529 14th st. NW Washington DC 20045

Office # (202) 783-0363

Fax # (202) 737-2050

Cell # (b)(6)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 10:26 AM
To: 'Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov'
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; 'ShafferMr@state.gov'
Subject: Re: Nrc and cns meeting

Ok. Jennifer, can you block roughly 9-10am wednesday as a hedge in case boss agrees? Will let all know as soon as I can get him to focus. Probably thursday PM. Tied up now with congressional hearings.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 30 10:22:55 2011
Subject: RE: Nrc and cns meeting

Thanks. We do have security requirements to meet at the Mission when bringing in journalists, so we will have to make the call early on Monday to coordinate with security staff. I've gone ahead and blocked off the room here at the Mission for our use. If it's possible to put a hold on the Chairman's schedule so that the open slot isn't filled with something else, that would be great. His schedule seemed pretty full to me.

Jennifer

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:48 PM
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Shaffer, Mark R
Subject: RE: Nrc and cns meeting

Jennifer: I need to check with the chairman or get an OK from his chief of staff. I see no problem, but it is his call. There is nothing pressing right now about putting out a notice. We can wait until Monday to send something out announcing an event. I will get back to you as quickly as possible. Also, I would hold the thing to a half hour max. there comes a point where the questions start circling back on themselves.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 6:20 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Shaffer, Mark R

Subject: RE: Nrc and cns meeting

Hi, Eliot.

It looks like the Chairman's schedule would permit a roundtable on Wednesday morning, April 6, from 9-10. Would you please let me know if we are okay to move ahead with this - i.e., send out the media notice?

I would propose we do the roundtable at UNVIE, in our conference room. We can control access here, it's comfortable and can accommodate the group, journalists are used to coming here, and we're across the street from the Vienna International Center (where he has a 10:30 bilat scheduled). He and the review meeting group would start the day here at UNVIE for the delegation meeting, hold the press roundtable (say 9:15-10), and then move on to the VIC for the bilats.

Best,
Jennifer

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:42 PM
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Shaffer, Mark R
Subject: Re: Nrc and cns meeting

(b)(5)

Eliot
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 28 04:02:32 2011
Subject: RE: Nrc and cns meeting

Hi, Eliot.

Thanks for your message, and I look forward to working with you.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Anyway, thanks again, and we'll see how things pan out this week. Safe travels in Japan if you are on that trip right now.
Best,
Jennifer

Jennifer Hall Godfrey
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Mission to International Organizations
Vienna, Austria

HallGodfreyJJ@state.gov
+43-1-31339-4726
<http://vienna.usmission.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 5:31 PM
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Cc: Schwartzman, Jennifer; Shaffer, Mark R
Subject: Nrc and cns meeting

Just making contact. Not sure yet what boss will want to do. Probably will evolve next week (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Cell is (b)(6) office 301 415 8200 (direct is 8201) home is (b)(6).

Eliot Brenner
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 10:06 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Ala lab is 1st defense for radiation from Japan

FYI

(b)(6) has sent you a link to the following article on comcast.net:

Ala. lab is 1st defense for radiation from Japan

<http://www.comcast.net/articles/news-national/20110330/US.EPA.Radiation.Lab/>

(If clicking on the link doesn't work, try copying and pasting it into your browser and hit "enter.")

BV/1215

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 9:13 AM
To: 'Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov'
Subject: Re: Bloomberg

I'm just an old wire service hack who got above his raising!

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200

C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J <Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Shaffer, Mark R <ShafferMr@state.gov>; Scheland, Mark DL <SchelandMDL@state.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 30 09:09:58 2011
Subject: RE: Bloomberg

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 1:51 PM
To: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J
Cc: Shaffer, Mark R; Scheland, Mark DL
Subject: RE: Bloomberg

(b)(5)

From: Hall-Godfrey, Jennifer J [mailto:Hall-GodfreyJJ@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:04 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Shaffer, Mark R; Scheland, Mark DL
Subject: Bloomberg

Hi, Elliott.

BU/1216

I understand you had an e-mail interchange with our local Bloomberg correspondent, Jonathan Tirone, who has been pressing the IAEA to grant journalists greater access to the CNS review – a daily readout by someone on the Secretariat or a member state, a point person they can go to with questions, etc. The IAEA has told him no, their only instructions from member states are to provide access to the opening and closing sessions. Member states keep referring him back to the IAEA when he asks them about greater access.

(b)(5)

Jennifer

*Jennifer Hall Godfrey
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Mission to International Organizations
Vienna, Austria*

HallGodfreyJJ@state.gov
+43-1-31339-4726
http://vienna.usmission.gov

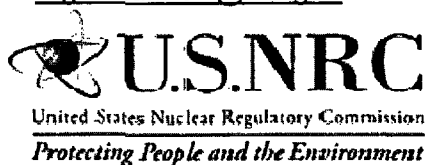
From: Carroll, Bradley <Bradley.Carroll@dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:49 AM
To: Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Miami Herald...
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks Roger. I think we're all on the same page. Let me see what I hear back from Curtis next and I'll be in touch if I think any clarification needs to be made on your end. He seems to be implying that FEMA dictates the EPZ.

From: prvs=063d7395c=Roger.Hannah@nrc.gov [mailto:prvs=063d7395c=Roger.Hannah@nrc.gov] **On Behalf Of** Hannah, Roger
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:34 AM
To: Carroll, Bradley; Ledford, Joey; Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Miami Herald...

(b)(5)

Roger Hannah, APR
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Region II -- Atlanta, Ga.
Office - 404-997-4417
Cell - (b)(6)
roger.hannah@nrc.gov



From: Carroll, Bradley [mailto:Bradley.Carroll@dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 7:23 AM
To: Ledford, Joey; Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Hannah, Roger
Subject: Re: Miami Herald...

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Wondering if you guys had some more incite / guidance on this one.

Thanks.

From: prvs=063b48402=Joey.Ledford@nrc.gov <prvs=063b48402=Joey.Ledford@nrc.gov>
To: Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>; Carroll, Bradley <Bradley.Carroll@dhs.gov>
Cc: Hannah, Roger <Roger.Hannah@nrc.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 30 07:14:38 2011
Subject: RE: Miami Herald...

We have talked to Curtis Morgan of the Herald three times since the Japan event. What's up?

Joey Ledford
Public Affairs Officer
Region II -- Atlanta, Ga.
O: 404.997.4416

C: (b)(6)
joey.ledford@nrc.gov



From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 6:19 PM
To: Carroll, Bradley
Cc: Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey
Subject: RE: Miami Herald...

Holly's out until Thursday. I have not. I don't know if our regional folks in Atlanta have been talking to anyone. I'm copying them on this note.

From: Carroll, Bradley [mailto:Bradley.Carroll@dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 6:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Harrington, Holly
Subject: Miami Herald...

Eliot, Holly,

Are either of you working with a Miami Herald reporter regarding nuclear plants down there?

Brad Carroll
Press Secretary
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office: 202-646-4334 | News Desk: 202-646-3272

Stay updated on FEMA

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From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 6:30 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Here are your energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Tuesday, March 29, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Senate braces for pivotal votes on EPA's climate authority

Two thirds of Gulf oil leases not producing, Interior report says

Feds weigh manslaughter charges in BP spill

NRC will hone in on battery backups on domestic nuclear plants

Obama to outline energy plan on Wednesday

Chu announces cost-cutting program for energy start-ups

Laptop with BP spill claimant data reported lost

Wealthy hunters, poor residents clash over Arkansas coal plant

Report suggests China may lower nuclear power ambitions

Hastings unveils trio of oil drilling expansion bills

Senate 'Gang of 10' moving again to introduce energy legislation

Pew: U.S. slipped to third in renewable energy race despite stimulus

Criticism grows over Japanese government handling of nuclear crisis

Former congressman Gordon takes energy expertise to lobbying world

Congressional votes on EPA to echo on campaign trail

Daybook: Upcoming events

Senate braces for pivotal votes on EPA's climate authority

By Edward Felker

Senators prepared for highly-anticipated votes Wednesday on three proposals to curtail the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas authority, though it was unclear whether any would get the votes needed to be added to a pending small business bill.

The votes are to come the same day President Barack Obama is to deliver a key policy speech on his energy agenda, one that is being billed by the White House as a plan to reduce the nation's dependence on imported oil.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters that at least one EPA amendment out of the two from Democrats and one from Republicans, might get the 60 votes needed to be adopted.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who offered the Republican bill by Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe to bar all greenhouse gas regulation by EPA, said the vote was needed because of the agency's impact on the economy.

McConnell said Democrats have delayed a vote on EPA greenhouse gas authority until now to give themselves enough time to defeat the Republican plan.

"Maybe they will (defeat it), but it will be an opportunity for everybody to go on record so folks at home will know how senators feel about this massive over-regulation which is going to have an extraordinarily adverse impact on our economy," he added.

The chamber is also expected to vote on amendments by Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.V., to delay EPA greenhouse gas regulations for two years, and another by Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont. to codify EPA's exemptions for agriculture and smaller emitters.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, told reporters she thought all three would fall short. But Reid held open the possibility that one will pick up enough bipartisan support to pass.

"I'm not sure that's true," he said, when asked to explain why the votes were being held if none of the plans would pass. Pressed to say which bill he was referring to, Reid said only, "I don't know."

The Rockefeller bill, though opposed by some Republicans and environmental groups, is a possible contender to get the supermajority needed. He has the co-sponsorship of six Democrats and was promised a vote last year by Reid, but that plan stalled at the end of the year.

Two thirds of Gulf oil leases not producing, Interior report says

By Julie Pace

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than two-thirds of offshore leases in the Gulf of Mexico are sitting idle, neither producing oil and gas, nor being actively explored by the companies who hold the leases, according to a Department of Interior report to be released Tuesday.

Those inactive swaths of the Gulf could potentially hold more than 11 billion barrels of oil and 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, Interior said in the report obtained by The Associated Press.

President Barack Obama ordered the report earlier this month amid pressure to curb a spike in gasoline prices following instability in the oil-rich Middle East. The White House said Obama would outline his plans for America's energy security in a speech in Washington Wednesday.

The inefficiencies detailed in the Interior Department report also extend to onshore oil and gas leases on federal lands, with 45 percent of those leases deemed inactive. The department said it is currently exploring options to provide companies with additional incentives for more rapid development of oil and gas resources from existing and future leases.

"These are resources that belong to the American people, and they expect those supplies to be developed in a timely and responsible manner and with a fair return to taxpayers," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said in the report.

Congressional Democrats have already introduced so-called "Use it or Lose it" legislation on Capitol Hill that would impose an escalating fee on the oil and gas companies who hold leases they're not actively using.

The oil and gas industry promptly disputed the administration findings.

"The majority of these leases are always turned back because we can't find resource in commercial quantities," said Jack Gerard, the president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute. "To suggest that we're sitting on our hands is a pure distraction."

Feds weigh manslaughter charges in BP spill

By Pete Yost

WASHINGTON (AP) — Manslaughter and perjury are among possible charges that U.S. Justice Department investigators are exploring in the early stages of their probe into the Gulf oil spill, people familiar with the inquiry said Tuesday.

These people said the Justice Department is not ruling out the possibility of bringing manslaughter charges against companies or managers responsible for the explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig that killed 11 workers.

The department also is examining congressional testimony by company executives, including former BP chief executive Tony Hayward, to determine whether their statements were untruthful, these people added.

They cautioned that the investigation is still far from complete and spoke on condition of anonymity about the ongoing investigation.

Justice Department spokeswoman Laura Sweeney declined to comment.

Earlier this month, the Justice Department reorganized its oil spill investigation. It created a unified task force so investigators from Justice's criminal and environmental divisions and from the U.S. attorney's office in New Orleans can coordinate overlapping work of looking into civil violations and criminal culpability, if any.

Deputy Attorney General James Cole ordered the move to avoid duplication of effort. Criminal division senior counsel John Buretta is leading the task force, and criminal division chief Lanny Breuer is supervising it.

The drilling rig explosion occurred on April 20, 2010. A month and a half later, Attorney General Eric Holder announced criminal and civil investigations of the disaster.

"We will closely examine the actions of those involved in the spill. If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be extremely forceful in our response," Holder said in New Orleans.

Bringing a manslaughter charge against a corporation is unusual but not unprecedented.

Two weeks after Holder announced the probe, Cole told Congress that prosecuting individual executives is the best deterrent when there is corporate misconduct.

Cole did not oppose charging corporations criminally, but added that doing so can unfairly penalize innocent shareholders and employees.

He added that charging any corporation is a sensitive subject within the Justice Department and that doing so can affect "thousands and thousands" of employees and shareholders with no role in the misconduct.

NRC will hone in on battery backups on domestic nuclear plants

By Edward Felker

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will closely examine whether backup batteries at U.S. nuclear power plants will last long enough in a station blackout, a top commission official said Tuesday.

Bill Borchardt, NRC executive director for operations, told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at a public briefing that the commission's short- and long-term safety reviews will focus on that question, among others, in response to the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

He said the NRC will take a fresh look at its "blackout rule," which plants already meet, to see whether their batteries can supply power long enough if on-site backup generators don't work.

The loss of power from diesel generators and exhaustion of batteries at Fukushima led to overheating at its nuclear reactors and spent fuel pools.

"One of the obvious questions we will be asking ourselves, do we need an enhanced battery supply, a battery supply that can last longer?" he said.

Diesel generators and fuel supplies are protected and tested, Borchardt stressed, but the failure of those same systems at Fukushima, attributed to the tsunami that followed the March 11 earthquake, has raised new concerns.

"Given what we've learned in Japan, it's an obvious question we need to be asking ourselves, do we need to make it even more robust and stronger, so that will be part of the review we're doing," he added.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, an industry watchdog group, has said the current ability of most plants to supply four or eight hours of backup battery power may be inadequate and the NRC should consider mandating battery capacity that reflects the time needed to bring in additional power sources.

Speaking to reporters, Borchardt would not say that any one of the 65 U.S. plants was deficient in backup power because they have complied with the blackout rule, which requires planning for the loss of power.

Borchardt appeared with Peter Lyons, the acting assistant secretary for nuclear power at the Energy Department. Lyons said the department believes the Fukushima plant is undergoing a "slow recovery" and that a massive cleanup is ahead. They said there continues to be no threat to the health and safety of citizens in the United States from the disaster, based on readings by radiation monitors.

Lyons reiterated administration support for nuclear, "as a very important component to the overall portfolio we are trying to build for a clean energy future," and that DOE's nuclear programs keep nuclear as a viable power source. He pointed to work on reactors, including small modular units, which

do not need electricity-powered pumps to circulate cooling water.

"The programs of the office of nuclear energy are focused on assuring that the option for safe nuclear power remains open to the nation," he said.

Senators at the hearing, including Chairman Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., and ranking Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, gave no indications whether the Japan crisis will drive legislation in the committee. Both noted that it was too soon to know what facts can be applied from the disaster to the U.S. nuclear fleet. "I do hope that this is an opportunity for us here as a committee as well as other committees here in the Congress to really take away some lessons learned," Murkowski said.

Obama to outline energy plan on Wednesday

By The Associated Press

The White House says President Barack Obama will outline his plans for U.S. energy security during a speech in Washington Wednesday.

Obama aides offered few details about the president's remarks. During January's State of the Union address, Obama said he wanted 80 percent of U.S. electricity to be generated by clean energy sources, including nuclear power, by 2035.

Nuclear power has come under more intense scrutiny in recent weeks after an earthquake and tsunami in Japan severely damaged a nuclear power plant there. Despite the uncertainty at that facility, Obama says he remains committed to developing nuclear power in the U.S.

Chu announces cost-cutting program for energy start-ups

By The Associated Press

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu is making it easier for start-up companies to license groundbreaking technologies developed by the National Laboratories.

Chu announced Tuesday the department will reduce the total upfront cost of licensing patents in a specific technology to a \$1,000 fee for portfolios of up to three patents.

The department is also reducing the paperwork requirements for start-up companies to obtain an option agreement to license some of the 15,000 patents and patent applications held by 17 National Laboratories.

Chu says the goal of the "America's Next Top Energy Innovator" challenge is to double the number of startup companies coming out of the National Laboratories. To be eligible, entrepreneurs must identify the technology of

interest and submit a business plan for consideration. The program kicks off May 2.

Laptop with BP spill claimant data reported lost

By Harry R. Weber and Michael Kunzelman

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A BP employee lost a laptop containing personal data belonging to thousands of residents who filed claims for compensation after the Gulf oil spill, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

BP spokesman Curtis Thomas said the oil giant on Monday mailed out letters to roughly 13,000 people whose data was stored on the computer, notifying them about the potential data security breach and offering to pay for their credit to be monitored. The company also reported the missing laptop to law enforcement, he said.

The laptop was password-protected, but the information was not encrypted, Thomas said.

The data included a spreadsheet of claimants' names, Social Security numbers, phone numbers and addresses. But Thomas said the company doesn't have any evidence that claimants' personal information has been misused.

"We're committed to the people of the Gulf Coast states affected by the Deepwater Horizon accident and spill, and we deeply regret that this occurred," he said.

The data belonged to individuals who filed claims with BP before the Gulf Coast Claims Facility took over the processing of claims in August. BP paid roughly \$400 million in claims before the switch. As of Tuesday, the GCCF had paid roughly \$3.6 billion to 172,539 claimants.

Thomas said no one will have to resubmit a claim because of the lost data.

The employee lost the laptop on March 1 during "routine business travel," said Thomas, who declined to elaborate on the circumstances.

"If it was stolen, we think it was a crime of opportunity, but it was initially lost," Thomas said.

BP is offering to pay for claimants to have their credit monitored by Equifax, an Atlanta-based credit bureau.

Wealthy hunters, poor residents clash over Arkansas coal plant

By The Associated Press

Some wealthy duck hunters in Arkansas are clashing with residents of an impoverished small town over construction of a coal-fired power plant.

The hunters say the plant will spew pollution that could harm their pristine Hempstead County Hunting Club, a 7-square-mile forest that has stood uncut since before Europeans arrived in North America.

But people in the struggling town of Fulton welcome the plant because it will bring jobs and tax revenue. The dispute has laid bare the class tensions that have long beset the rural area.

The hunters have sued to force the electric company to abandon the plant.

Report suggests China may lower nuclear power ambitions

By Joe McDonald

BEIJING (AP) — China's government has made changes in its policy on nuclear power that likely will result in a scaling back of ambitious plans for building new plants, an industry official said in comments reported Tuesday by state media.

The announcement came as Japan struggles to control a nuclear plant that was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami earlier this month but there was no announcement that the change was prompted by that disaster.

Beijing is promoting nuclear power to curb surging demand for oil and gas, but analysts say the industry's rapid growth is straining China's ability to supply equipment and technicians.

Recent policy changes are likely to result in a reduction of about 10 gigawatts in nuclear generating capacity from the 90 gigawatts previously expected to be built by 2020, said the deputy director of the China Electricity Council, Wei Zhaofeng, according to newspapers.

Government plans called for nuclear to supply up to 5 percent of China's power by 2020 but Wei said that was likely to be closer to 3 percent due to the policy changes. The reports by the China Business News, China Daily and other newspapers gave no details of the changes.

Employees who answered the phone at the CEC, the group for China's power utilities, declined to confirm Wei made the comments or give any details or their names.

The communist government is in the midst of finalizing a blueprint for nuclear power development over the next five years and Tuesday's reports suggested officials might be more conservative after a decade of aggressively expanding

the industry.

Hastings unveils trio of oil drilling expansion bills

House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings introduced three bills Tuesday to expand and speed up offshore oil drilling, including off the Virginia coastline, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Senate 'Gang of 10' moving again to introduce energy legislation

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., and Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., told The Hill that they were re-convening the bipartisan Senate group known as the "Gang of 10" to make another run at broad energy legislation that reduces foreign oil dependency.

[Read more](#)

Pew: U.S. slipped to third in renewable energy race despite stimulus

A new report from the Pew Charitable Trusts concluded Tuesday that global investment in low-carbon energy technologies "roared back" in 2010 from flat recession levels but the United States fell another rung to third place after losing the top spot to China in 2009.

[Read more](#)

Criticism grows over Japanese government handling of nuclear crisis

The Japanese government and its prime minister, Naoto Kan, are facing growing criticism for the response to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear radiation releases, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Former congressman Gordon takes energy expertise to lobbying world

Former House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., a former leader of the Blue Dog Democrats, is taking his energy expertise to the K&L Gates lobbying and law firm, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Congressional votes on EPA to echo on campaign trail

Expected votes in Congress this month on Environmental Protection Agency rules regarding climate change are certain to reverberate on the campaign trail in 2012, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Mar. 30, Washington: The American Petroleum Association briefs reporters on its reaction to the Interior Department oil and gas lease report and to preview President Barack Obama's energy speech. 9:30 am, Via teleconference.
- Mar. 30, Washington: Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on Japan nuclear crisis. NRC Chairman Jaczko, DOE's Peter Lyons among witnesses. 10:00 am, Dirksen 138.
- Mar. 30, Washington: House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee hearing on efficiency, renewable energy, fossil energy, electricity delivery and energy reliability programs. DOE's Kelly, Hoffman, Der to testify. 10:00 am, Rayburn 2632B.
- Mar. 30, Washington: House Natural Resources hearing on the 2012 budget proposal for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. Director Michael Bromwich to testify. 10:00 am, Longworth 1324.
- Mar. 30, Washington: Senate Agriculture Committee holds a hearing on high gasoline prices and innovative farming. EIA Admin. Newell, CFTC General Counsel Berkovitz, others to testify. 10:30 am, Russell 328A.
- Mar. 30, Washington: President Barack Obama speaks about his plans for U.S. energy security. 11:20 am, Georgetown University.
- Mar. 30, Washington: Senate Energy hearing on National Park Service 2012

budget. NPS Dir. Jarvis to testify. 2:30 pm, Dirksen 366.

- Mar. 30, Washington: Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on Nuclear Security Administration 2012 authorization. 2:30 pm, Russell 232-A.
- Mar. 30, Washington: Deloitte Center for Energy Solutions forum, "Cybersecurity: Protecting the Nation's Energy Infrastructure." By invitation. 4:00 pm, Willard Intercontinental.

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From: Peter Behr <pbehr@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: queries on task force and chairmans japan trip

Got it. Many thanks!

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:47 PM
To: Peter Behr
Subject: RE: queries on task force and chairmans japan trip

Re miller, write that he is understood to be tapped as head of the panel (i.e. deep background in our parlance).

I missed the trip (thank goodness) because it was unbelievably short notice and the boss wanted to keep it low key. It was, off the record, short notice only because this was the one window the boss had to get over there for a couple of weeks and it could be done. There was no other urgency to it in the operational sense.

From: Peter Behr [mailto:pbehr@eenews.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:27 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: queries on task force and chairmans japan trip

Thanks very much. Is the report about Miller usable on background? How come you didn't get to make the trip?

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:25 PM
To: Peter Behr
Subject: RE: queries on task force and chairmans japan trip

The chairman isn't doing any interviews but will touch on his trip in his senate testimony tomorrow, briefly. On background, he met with the Ambassador, the team of about a dozen NRC employees working in Tokyo, a variety of Japanese government officials, including the regulator, and with TEPCO. Hey, in 25 hours and 35 minutes on the ground, including travel time to and from Narita, that's a reasonably full schedule! He left late Saturday night, and was back in the office by noon today preparing for his hearing tomorrow.

We have not announced who is heading the task force. Mallett will be unable to participate. I expect an announcement of the composition and leadership within a day or two.

Eliot

From: Peter Behr [mailto:pbehr@eenews.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:10 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: queries on task force and chairmans japan trip

Hello Eliot – I called with a couple of questions.

Is there any detail available about the chairman's trip to Japan? And is he going to give any summary or interviews about that?

Have you announced who is heading the 90-day study? I heard it would be Charles Miller, and that Bruce Mallett was part of the team? Is that right?

Thanks and regards,
Pete

Peter Behr
Reporter, *ClimateWire*
pbehr@eenews.net
202-446-0420 (p)

(b)(6)

 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:55 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: one TNT update

POSSIBLE LEGISLATION – Rep. Markey says he's working on legislation that, according to E&E News, would impose a moratorium on licensing of new reactors or license extensions for existing plants until new safety requirements are in place. E&E reported that Markey said his bill would also require nuclear reactors, spent nuclear fuel pools and nuclear reactor cooling systems to withstand earthquakes, tsunamis and strong storms. And it would require nuclear power plants to have emergency backup power systems to help withstand longer power outages. The legislation would bump up backup diesel generating capacity from seven days to 14 days and backup battery generating capacity from four hours to 72 hours. Finally, the legislation would require spent fuel to be moved from pools to safer, dry-cask storage "as soon as possible." Here's a link: <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2011/03/29/6>

BV11220

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete (length alert)
Attachments: image001.jpg

~~Internal use only – no distribution outside NRC – no redistribution~~
~~May contain material proprietary to news agencies~~

JAPAN NEWS

JAPAN UPDATE HEARING – EDO Bill Borchardt, along with Peter Lyons (DOE), provided an update on the Fukushima situation before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee where over a dozen reporters and a half dozen media photographers were in attendance. Senator questions covered safety of U.S. plants and their spent fuel pools from tsunamis and earthquakes, enhancements to U.S. BWRs w/Mark I containments, the decision process for 50-mile evacuation recommendations of Americans in Japan, ocean contamination, reprocessing, adequacy of evacuation plans, impacts of Japan event on license renewal, and differences between U.S. and Japanese plants. A second panel followed with NEI and UCS. Bill responded to about a dozen questions from reporters after he left the hearing room, many of which were extensions of Senator questions and some that we couldn't answer until we've completed our 90-day review. One reporter pressed on whether the NRC has evaluated plants on the coast and near earthquake faults for the scenario that occurred in Japan where a tsunami quickly followed an earthquake.

SPENT FUEL – Energy Daily asked for NRC's response to David Lochbaum's recommendation before Congress today that NRC order plants to move spent fuel to dry cask sooner. We declined to elaborate on the EDO's statement at the same hearing that the issue would be looked at in the agency's 90-day review of the Japan crisis and provided background information from our response to the 2004 National Academies report with the same recommendation. For fans of late night television, ABC's Nightline will have a nuclear segment tonight, featuring Lochbaum. We declined the opportunity to participate given the press of business.

POTASSIUM IODIDE – Rep. Markey used the Japan situation as a springboard to seek more press for his effort to get KI distributed out to 20 miles beyond a nuclear plant. In the attached link from CNN, that network's medical consultant could be described as a little dismissive of the idea. Our response is that we will be looking at a variety of issues in our review of the NRC's overall regulatory approach during the 90-day and 6-month reviews.
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/03/29/nuclear.iodine/index.html>.

INDIAN POINT – The Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) held a webstreamed editorial board meeting this afternoon with two seismic experts regarding Indian Point and possible implications of the Japan reactor events. A Region I PAO offered comments online as the discussion was taking place, adding the NRC perspective. And, CNN continues to pepper us with questions on a variety of topics for its piece on Indian Point. Today, the discussion included the seismic studies and emergency preparedness.

BEAVER VALLEY – The Beaver County (Pa.) Times asked for more information on our State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequences Analysis (SOARCA) study after reading a fairly lengthy Associated Press story on the subject. Of particular interest was a mention of Beaver Valley as being the plant with the greatest risk of core melt based on a study done in the early 1990s. We let the reporter know the earlier study was based on a worst-case scenario and did not reflect realistic risk context.

RADIOACTIVE RAINWATER – Regions keep getting calls about either radiation in rainwater or measured radiation.

PIRG REPORT – The Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) did a “study” listing a variety of well-known nuclear incidents over the past couple of decades. Several regions and Headquarters took calls on the “report. We talked about the overall NRC oversight and inspection programs and the review of Japan events being initiated by the agency. The PIRG outfit seems to be peddling this “report” through its various chapters, a pretty standard approach.

MASS. GOV MEETING – Region I Administrator Bill Dean and technical support staff will meet on Wednesday afternoon with Mass. Gov. Deval Patrick in Boston to discuss reactors the state cares about, including Pilgrim, Vermont Yankee and Seabrook. There was coverage of this gathering by the Associated Press and other media outlets today. Along those lines, a Region I PAO did a recorded interview with WBUR-FM, the NPR outlet in Boston, previewing the meeting and its purpose. Dean has been told to expect media questions either going into or leaving the meeting (or both).

COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT REVIEW – In response to questions from reporter with the Monterey County Weekly, we shared information about the Chairman and Commissions’ direction to task force to conduct a the short-term and long-term review of plants. We explained Diablo Canyon would be part of that review.

ILLINOIS PLANT REGULATIONS—OPA spoke to a reporter from WCIA about the strict regulations the NRC has in place to ensure plants are able to handle earthquakes, tornadoes and other natural weather events. This inquiry comes after Sen. Durbin and Sen. Kirk held a nuclear forum last Friday to inquiry about the safety of plants in Illinois.

AND IN OTHER NEWS

DIABLO CANYON – We spoke to a reporter from a local community paper in response to a recent LA Times article and Union of Concerned Scientists report involving a set of switches intended to allow control room operators to remotely open cooling water valves that were misaligned. The valves are part of a system that would collect water from the floor of the containment building for recirculation to cool the reactor during severe accidents. If the valves could not be opened remotely, operators would be required to manually open them or use a different system to provide cooling water for the reactor. This was a special inspection conducted by NRC and the problem has been corrected. The plant is in Column one.

NINE MILE POINT – Unit 1 declared an Unusual Event early Tuesday based on a fire involving a lift inside the plant’s drywell. The plant is currently shut down for a refueling outage. We fielded questions about the Unusual Event from the Post Standard (of Syracuse, N.Y.), News 10 (an area cable-TV news outlet) and the Palladium-Times (of Oswego, N.Y.).

SUSQUEHANNA – The Morning Call (of Allentown, Pa.) had questions pertaining to a Preliminary “Greater Than Green” security-related inspection finding for the facility. The reporter did his best to try to dislodge information about the nature of the finding but we declined to provide any details.

CRYSTAL RIVER – The Tampa Tribune called Region II OPA with questions about the status of planned repairs at the Crystal River plant. We told the reporter that the NRC is following the most recent separation in containment but the company has not advised the agency of any repair plans at this point.

VOGTLE – The Waynesboro (Ga.) True-Citizen contacted Region II OPA with questions about the current status of the second Limited Work Authorization request at the Vogtle site. We provided some information on the status as well as current license review status. We can expect a story in this week’s edition.

WOLF CREEK: We spoke to reporters from the Kansas City Network and about NRC oversight of Wolf Creek in addition to answering questions about the upcoming public meeting (press release issued today) and recent end -of-cycle assessment letter. We explained how our Reactor Oversight Process works and the issues that led to Wolf Creek’s placement in Column Three., stressing that although the plant was receiving a heightened level of oversight it was operating safely.

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT: We spoke to a reporter writing for the San Antonio Current about the license renewal process and opportunity for the public to weigh in. In addition, we spoke to a reporter from Brazoria County newspaper about whether or not NRC was halting COL application review. We advised that the licensee is continuing the process to apply for a license to construct and NRC staff continues the COL application review. Recent news reports have stated the project is on hold and due in part to affiliations with TEPCO.

TMI – the Wall Street Journal is working on a story on the accident at TMI and its aftermath. Questions from a fact-checker sent us to Sam Walker's book and the factsheet on the NRC webpage to confirm details.

DECOMMISSIONING – Milwaukee Public Radio called with questions about spent fuel stored at the shuttered LaCrosse plant in Wisconsin. We provided some data and will try to set up an interview with the PM tomorrow.

EPZ – Newsday inquired about extending the EPZ for Millstone beyond 10 miles. A local official on Long Island asked NY's senators to prod us to do so, because much of eastern Long Island is within 20 miles of Millstone and yet the communities have no evacuation plans.

RADIATION PROTECTION – A freelancer for the North County Times near San Diego asked about occupational and public exposure limits, and how NRC's differ from the ICRP recommendations.

Press releases and speeches posted

NRC Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes to Meet Apr. 11-12 in Rockville, Md.

Meeting notices about North Anna, Browns Ferry and Wolf Creek.

Finally, in the "we don't make this stuff up" department, we share the following slipped to us by a national correspondent of considerable reputation. We cannot vouch for its accuracy or authenticity.:

Renowned Pakistani Columnist Nusrat Mirza Accuses U.S. Of Artificially Causing Japanese Earthquake: 'The U.S. has Carried Out a Second Nuclear Attack on Japan'



In a recent article, renowned Pakistani columnist Nusrat Mirza accused the U.S. of artificially causing the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, calling the radiation leaks resulting from damage to nuclear plants the U.S.'s "second nuclear attack" on the Japanese nation. He argued that the March earthquake was artificially caused by the U.S. X-37B spaceplane just six days after it was launched.

Nusrat Mirza is a senior journalist and columnist for the Urdu-language newspaper Roznama Jang, the mass-circulation Urdu-language newspaper of Pakistan. He has over 25 years of experience in journalism in Pakistan and has also advised the governments of Pakistan and of Sindh province.

In his column, titled "The Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami – Natural or Artificial?" Nusrat Mirza argued that the world will have to decide that the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, the 2010 Pakistani floods, the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, and the 2011 Japanese earthquake-cum-tsunami were all artificially caused by the U.S., possibly through the use of HAARP technology at a scientific research center in Alaska.

From: Chandrathil, Prema
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:14 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Cc: Mitlyng, Viktoria
Subject: R3 TNT

I-131—OPA spoke to a reporter from the Daily Herald who had questions about the trace amounts of I-131 being picked up at monitors around the country. OPA explained that we are aware of minute amounts that have been detected but stressed that nothing detected in the US comes anywhere near a level that would have a health impact.

ILLINOIS PLANT REGULATIONS—OPA spoke to a reporter from WCIA about the strict regulations the NRC has in place to ensure plants are able to handle earthquakes, tornadoes and other natural weather events. This inquiry comes after Sen. Durbin and Sen. Kirk held a nuclear forum last Friday to inquiry about the safety of plants in Illinois.

Prema Chandrathil-Yeaman
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
Lisle, IL
(630) 829-9663
prema.chandrathil@nrc.gov

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:15 PM
To: Stephen Power
Subject: RE: can you preview/share the chairman's planned testimony for tomorrow?

9:30 is late for me. I have to be in a whole lot earlier than you do, and besides, I'm an old fart now.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Power [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:13 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: can you preview/share the chairman's planned testimony for tomorrow?

That'd be great. Please do (b)(6). I'll be up late so don't worry about waking me. Thanks again!

On 3/29/11, Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

> I really haven't followed things today. Been tied up answering
> reporter calls. I get briefed in the early evening. if there is
> anything to pass on as a "us official" not connected with the NRC I will call.
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Stephen Power [mailto:(b)(6)]
> Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:59 PM
> To: Brenner, Eliot
> Subject: Re: can you preview/share the chairman's planned testimony
> for tomorrow?
>

> Ok. Thanks. Speaking as a US official, can you can about what your
> colleagues see happening at the nuke plant in Japan? My colleagues and
> editors are trying to make sense of things (as I'm sure you all are).
> Their impression is that the Japanese are in a bind where they have to
> dump radioactive water into the ocean as part of the effort to restart
> the pumps and cool the reactors. How bad does all this look from the
> US pt of view? reachable at (b)(6) if easier to talk by phone.
> Thanks again.
>

> On 3/29/11, Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

>> I don't have the testimony to provide in advance, though I've scanned it.
>> You can expect it to reprise the situation as he did last week on the
>> House side and touch briefly on his trip to Japan. Thursday in all
>> likelihood will be almost exclusively on the budget.

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Stephen Power [mailto:(b)(6)]
>> Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:28 PM
>> To: Brenner, Eliot
>> Subject: can you preview/share the chairman's planned testimony for

>> tomorrow?

>>

>>

>>

>

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:07 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: tnt

DECOMMISSIONING – Milwaukee Public Radio called with questions about spent fuel stored at the shuttered LaCrosse plant in Wisconsin. We provided some data and will try to set up an interview with the PM tomorrow.

EPZ – Newsday inquired about extending the EPZ for Millstone beyond 10 miles. A local official on Long Island asked NY's senators to prod us to do so, because much of eastern Long Island is within 20 miles of Millstone and yet the communities have no evacuation plans.

RADIATION PROTECTION – A freelancer for the North County Times near San Diego asked about occupational and public exposure limits, and how NRC's differ from the ICRP recommendations.

SPENT FUEL – Energy Daily asked for NRC's response to David Lochbaum's recommendation before Congress today that NRC order plants to move spent fuel to dry cask sooner. We declined to elaborate on the EDO's statement at the same hearing that the issue would be looked at in the agency's 90-day review of the Japan crisis and provided background information from our response to the 2004 National Academies report with the same recommendation.

There were probably a few others too.

David McIntyre
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(301) 415-8206 (direct)
(b)(6) (mobile)
Protecting People & the Environment

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:07 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Fingerprints

You're asking me to predict the HR process? I think you should be on board close to the beginning of the week. I understand the chairman has already signed the waiver to get you back in here. Beth will know more. I am copying her.

eliot

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Fingerprints

My fingerprints were dark and clear - with lots of old age lines.

What's the time line here? Roger says joey (b)(6) next week and he will be on the road most of the week.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Eliot Brenner" <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov>
To: "Jan Strasma" <(b)(6)>, "Holly Harrington" <Holly.Harrington@nrc.gov>
Cc: "Prema Chandrathil" <Prema.Chandrathil@nrc.gov>, "Viktoria Mitlyng" <Viktoria.Mitlyng@nrc.gov>, (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:19:09 PM
Subject: RE: Fingerprints

Thanks. it's always something.

(b)(5)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Strasma [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:12 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Harrington, Holly
Cc: Chandrathil, Prema; Mitlyng, Viktoria (b)(6)
Subject: Fingerprints

Madonna Watson from Human Resources just e-mailed me that the fingerprint cards I had done at the Region III office were too light and could not be read. New cards are being overnighted to me

and I will get them redone tomorrow at the police department and return them overnight.

Jan

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:00 PM
To: Sanfilippo, Nathan; Miller, Charles; Anderson, Brian
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Task force press release

Charlie, Nathan;

As I said earlier, I won't be in tomorrow. Brian Anderson's filling in, so please include him on the e-mail with your edits and he'll move it along from there. Thanks!

Scott

From: Nakashima, Ryan <RNakashima@ap.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Kageyama, Yuri
Subject: Re: NRC staff in Tokyo

Ok thanks Eliot.

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 08:01 AM
To: Nakashima, Ryan
Subject: NRC staff in Tokyo

Mr. Nakashima: The only member of the NRC staff in Tokyo whom we have identified is Chuck Casto. An abbreviated version of his biography is contained in the following press release dated March 15 and marked "revised."

<http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-info.html>

We do not identify the other individuals so that they can get their work done without distraction. Moreover, Mr. Casto and the individual who will ultimately take his place are not available for interviews at the moment.

Thank you for checking with us.

Eliot Brenner

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

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[IP_US_DISC]msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

BU/1227

From: Brown, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:54 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: bechtel pump

No problem, glad to help out.

Mike

Mike Brown
Sr. Project Manager - Vogtle Project
NRO/DCIP/CIPB
email - michael.brown@nrc.gov
phone - 301-415-4096
cell - (b)(6)
office - T-7F14

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:28 PM
To: Brown, Michael
Subject: RE: bechtel pump

Thanks ... and thanks for saving the sketch.

From: Brown, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:37 AM
To: Skeen, David; Brenner, Eliot; Ruland, William
Subject: RE: bechtel pump

I'm in the Ops Center Monday through Saturday from 7am to 3pm, so I guess I'm available if needed.

Mike

From: Skeen, David
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:09 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Ruland, William; Brown, Michael
Subject: RE: bechtel pump

Eliot,

I'm on the late shift in the Ops Ctr until Wednesday, and then I will be out of town at the CNS meeting in Austria.

Let me know if I can help.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:03 AM
To: Skeen, David; Ruland, William; Brown, Michael
Subject: bechtel pump

Bechtel tells me their pump is in place and ready to be put to use. I told them they should put out a press release or reach out to reporters when they felt ready. They are going to share any release with me and it will mention our role. This email is to see if any of the three of you would be available to do interviews about the NRC role in the conceptualization of the pump when the calls start coming in?

Eliot

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

From: Screnci, Diane
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:46 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly
Subject: TNT

Indian Point – CNN continues to pepper us with questions on a variety of topics for its piece on Indian Point. Today, the discussion included the seismic studies and emergency preparedness.

Japan – The Japanese Daily News is trying to hunt down members of the NRC team that were sent to Tokyo for interviews. So far, they've been told the staff is not available.

PIRG press release - US PIRG released a report today documenting a laundry list of events at US nuclear plants to show nuclear power isn't worth the risk. A Region I PAO did a recorded interview with WAER-radio in Syracuse.

TMI – the Wall Street Journal is working on a story on the accident at TMI and its aftermath. Questions from a fact-checker sent us to Sam Walker's book and the factsheet on the NRC webpage to confirm details.

Diane Screnci
Sr. Public Affairs Officer
USNRC, RI
610/337-5330

BU/1229

From: Wald, Matthew <mattwald@nytimes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:34 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: new Fukushima info
Attachments: image001.jpg

I think it's for real. Scott Shane, who writes about intelligence and Pakistan, forwarded it. Thanks for the compliment and thanks for your help. We were a little late getting the graphic done and I sensed it had some problems; thanks for your help in our last-minute effort to straighten that out.

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:32 PM
To: Wald, Matthew
Subject: RE: new Fukushima info

Why don't I see this in your blog yet?

Is this for real?

By the way, discussions of probabilities aside, I really enjoyed reading your very reasoned look at PRA in the Science section today.

From: Wald, Matthew [mailto:mattwald@nytimes.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: new Fukushima info
Importance: Low

Renowned Pakistani Columnist Nusrat Mirza Accuses U.S. Of Artificially Causing Japanese Earthquake: 'The U.S. has Carried Out a Second Nuclear Attack on Japan'

[illegible]

In a recent article, renowned Pakistani columnist Nusrat Mirza accused the U.S. of artificially causing the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, calling the radiation leaks resulting from damage to nuclear plants the U.S.'s "second nuclear attack" on the Japanese nation. He argued that the March earthquake was artificially caused by the U.S. X-37B spaceplane just six days after it was launched.

Nusrat Mirza is a senior journalist and columnist for the Urdu-language newspaper Roznama Jang, the mass-circulation Urdu-language newspaper of Pakistan. He has over 25 years of experience in journalism in Pakistan and has also advised the governments of Pakistan and of Sindh province.

In his column, titled "The Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami – Natural or Artificial?" Nusrat Mirza argued that the world will have to decide that the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, the 2010 Pakistani floods, the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, and the 2011 Japanese earthquake-cum-tsunami were all artificially caused by the U.S., possibly through the use of HAARP technology at a scientific research center in Alaska.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:27 PM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: RE: KI language

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: KI language

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:22 PM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: RE: KI language

For the time being, because of the conversation I had with Josh, hold KI questions here where we can control the answer a little better.

Yes, make them talking points. Thanks for the link. Great story.

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:01 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: KI language

OK. Do you want to make these talking points (if asked only) and sent around HQ OPA? Regional OPA? Or ask regions to send KI questions to us?

Here is the CNN coverage:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/03/29/nuclear.iodine/index.html>

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:04 PM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: RE: KI language

(b)(5)

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:04 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: KI language

BU/1231

(b)(5)

We can use these as talking points, if you like them.

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:26 PM
To: Couret, Ivonne
Subject: FW: Georgia PIRG Report Summary

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:25 PM
To: Screnci, Diane
Cc: Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Chandrathil, Prema; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Dricks, Victor; Uselding, Lara; Sheehan, Neil
Subject: RE: Georgia PIRG Report Summary

I think I would say that the report is a compendium of already reported, widely known issues with which the NRC is quite familiar. In the 1980s and 1990s the NRC instituted substantial safety improvements at U.S. reactors, and after 9-11 the agency ordered many more into place to help deal with potential threats going beyond the basic protections built into reactor designs. As we have stated, the NRC will be looking at the data coming from Japan to take a fresh look at the regulatory regime in this country to determine if additional requirements are necessary to strengthen our approach to ensuring that reactor operators keep the public safe.

Or some variation on that theme.

From: Screnci, Diane
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Chandrathil, Prema; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Dricks, Victor; Uselding, Lara; Sheehan, Neil
Subject: FW: Georgia PIRG Report Summary

Have a suggestion for a response?

Diane Screnci
Sr. Public Affairs Officer
USNRC, RI
610/337-5330

BU/1232

From: Martha Dalton [mailto:mdalton@pba.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:16 PM
To: Screnci, Diane
Subject: Georgia PIRG Report Summary

For release:
Tuesday, March 29

For more information:
Stephanie Ali
(404) 892-3405
sali@georgiapirog.org

Nuclear Power: Not Worth the Risk

New Report Documents "Near Misses" at U.S. Nuclear Reactors

ATLANTA - A new report released today by the United States Public Interest Research Group documents a history of safety problems at nuclear reactors in the United States. These incidents – like the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan – illustrate that nuclear power carries with it risks that are simply not worth taking.

Since 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has rated 17 instances at domestic nuclear power plants as a "significant precursor" of core damage, meaning a dramatic increase in the risk of a serious accident. According to a new report, *Unacceptable Risk: Two Decades of "Close Calls," Leaks and Other Problems at U.S. Nuclear Reactors*, there have been four of these instances since 1990.

"Nuclear power is simply too risky", said Stephanie Ali, Georgia PIRG program associate. "Even the best technology can't control what Mother Nature throws our way. We can't afford to gamble with technologies that could unleash radioactive pollution into our communities."

The report details the following:

- In 2002, workers at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Ohio discovered that an acid leak had eaten through six inches of carbon steel on the reactor vessel head, leaving only 3/8 inch of stainless steel to contain the reactor's highly pressurized steam. Rupture of the vessel head could have resulted in the loss of coolant and damage to the plant's control rods, creating the conditions for rapid overheating of the reactor core.
- In 1996, critical systems at a reactor at Catawba Nuclear Station in South Carolina were without power for several hours when the plant lost outside power at the same time that one of its emergency generators was out of service for maintenance.
- In 1994, workers accidentally allowed 9,200 gallons of coolant to drain from the core of a reactor at Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Kansas. The plant's operators estimated that the condition – had it persisted for five more minutes – could have led to the plant's fuel rods being exposed and put at risk of overheating.
- In 1991, valves and drain lines in an emergency shutdown system failed at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant in North Carolina. Had an emergency occurred during that failure, the plant may not have been able to be shut down safely.

There have also been several documented accidental releases of radioactive material from U.S. nuclear power plants in the past decade.

- In 2002, it was discovered that radioactive material had been leaking into groundwater at New Jersey's Salem nuclear power plant for five years.

- Radioactive tritium leaked into groundwater at the Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station in Illinois.
- Radioactive tritium and strontium leaked from the spent fuel pools at the Indian Point Energy Center in New York, which are located just 400 feet from the Hudson River.
- Radioactive tritium was discovered in groundwater near the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, even though the plant's owner, Entergy, had stated several times in sworn testimony that the plant had no subterranean pipes capable of leaking nuclear material. Despite the leaks and lies, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extended Vermont Yankee's operating license for twenty years on March 22, 2011.

Events outlined in the new report show that American nuclear power plants are not immune to the types of natural disasters, mechanical failures, human errors, and losses of critical electric power supplies that have characterized Fukushima and other major nuclear accidents. Indeed, at several points over the last 20 years, American nuclear power plants have experienced "close calls" in which the potential for damage to a reactor core was acute.

"The nuclear crisis in Japan is a terrifying reminder of all that can go wrong at a nuclear power plant. The United States must move away from this inherently dangerous technology and towards safer energy sources," said Ali.

Georgia PIRG is calling on the Obama administration to put a freeze on the construction of new nuclear reactors and to suspend re-licensing of the oldest plants in the country until all safety concerns have been addressed.

Subject: marueen conley

Start: Fri 4/1/2011 8:00 AM
End: Fri 4/1/2011 9:00 AM

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: Brenner, Eliot

(b)(6)

BU/1233

From: G.Webb@iaea.org
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:58 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: questions sent to Bill Borchardt
Attachments: image001.gif; image002.gif; image003.gif; image004.gif

OK, thanks. We'll have to figure out where to get the answer. He may be annoying, but they're legit questions.

From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2011 21:40
To: WEBB, Greg
Subject: RE: questions sent to Bill Borchardt

That's fine. borchardt's first take was that the DG, with the IAEA legal department, was the place to go, and that's what I based my response on. Short reason was, he didn't want to get into these issues with the guy, so I had the job of pushing him off.

From: G.Webb@iaea.org [mailto:G.Webb@iaea.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:37 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: questions sent to Bill Borchardt

Hmm... We're sending him to CNS Contracting Parties, because the meeting is technically theirs, not an IAEA event. Admittedly, a bit of a gray area. Thanks for keeping me in loop.

Greg

=====

Greg Webb
IAEA Press and Public Information Officer
Press@IAEA.org
Ph: 43-1-2600-22047
Mobile: (b)(6)
Fax: 43-1-2600-29610
www.iaea.org



From: Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2011 21:25
To: jtirone@bloomberg.net
Subject: questions sent to Bill Borchardt

Bu/1234

Mr. Tirone: Mr. Borchardt forwarded your message to me. Upon looking over the questions, these are best directed to the head of the IAEA. I suggest you try that agency for a response.

Eliot Brenner

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

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From: Hannah, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:34 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly
Cc: Ledford, Joey
Subject: TNT input
Attachments: image001.png

VOGTLE – The Waynesboro (Ga.) True-Citizen contacted Region II OPA with questions about the current status of the second Limited Work Authorization request at the Vogtle site. We provided some information on the status as well as current license review status. We can expect a story in this week's edition.

GEORGIA PIRG REPORT – Region II OPA did a radio interview with WABE-FM, a public radio station in Atlanta, on a report issued by the Georgia chapter of the Public Interest Research Group on nuclear safety. We talked about the overall NRC oversight and inspection programs and the review of Japan events being initiated by the agency.

PLANT RADIATION READINGS – Region II OPA was contacted by a number of media outlets with questions about radiation readings at plants in the southeast, likely coming from events in Japan. The outlets included the Greenville (S.C.) News, the Tampa Tribune, the Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel and the Palm Beach (Fla.) Post.

CRYSTAL RIVER – The Tampa Tribune called Region II OPA with questions about the status of planned repairs at the Crystal River plant. We told the reporter that the NRC is following the most recent separation in containment but the company has not advised the agency of any repair plans at this point.

Roger Hannah, APR

Senior Public Affairs Officer

Region II -- Atlanta, Ga.

Office - 404-997-4417

Cell - (b)(6)

roger.hannah@nrc.gov



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Protecting People and the Environment

From: Sheehan, Neil
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:32 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: TNT items

NINE MILE POINT – Unit 1 declared an Unusual Event early Tuesday based on a fire involving a lift inside the plant's drywell. The plant is currently shut down for a refueling outage. We fielded questions about the Unusual Event from the Post Standard (of Syracuse, N.Y.), News 10 (an area cable-TV news outlet) and the Palladium-Times (of Oswego, N.Y.).

SUSQUEHANNA – The Morning Call (of Allentown, Pa.) had questions pertaining to a Preliminary "Greater Than Green" security-related inspection finding for the facility. The reporter did his best to try to dislodge information about the nature of the finding but we declined to provide any details.

MASS. GOV MEETING – Region I Administrator Bill Dean and technical support staff will meet on Wednesday afternoon with Mass. Gov. Deval Patrick in Boston to discuss reactors the state cares about, including Pilgrim, Vermont Yankee and Seabrook. There was coverage of this gathering by the Associated Press and other media outlets today. Along those lines, a Region I PAO did a recorded interview with WBUR-FM, the NPR outlet in Boston, previewing the meeting and its purpose. Mr. Dean has been told to expect media questions either going into or leaving the meeting (or both).

INDIAN POINT – The Journal News (of Westchester, N.Y.) held a webstreamed editorial board meeting this afternoon with two seismic experts regarding Indian Point and possible implications of the Japan reactor events. A Region I PAO was invited to offer comments online as the discussion was taking place and did so, adding the NRC perspective to the debate. The session lasted for about an hour and 15 minutes.

BEAVER VALLEY – The Beaver County (Pa.) Times asked for more information on our State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequences Analysis (SOARCA) study after reading a fairly lengthy Associated Press story on the subject. Of particular interest was a mention of Beaver Valley as being the plant with the greatest risk of core melt based on a study done in the early 1990s. We let the reporter know the earlier study was based on a worst-case scenario and did not reflect realistic risk context.

RADIOACTIVE RAINWATER – We continue to get calls about rainwater containing radioactivity from Japan. We talked to the Pocono (Pa.) Record and the Press of Atlantic City, and directed them to the EPA or state DEP after describing nuclear plant monitoring for radioactivity.

From: Loyd, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:26 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: factoid for boss

Thanks!

Susan K. Loyd
Communications Director
Office of the Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tele: 301-415-1838
Susan.Loyd@nrc.gov

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:21 PM
To: Batkin, Joshua
Cc: Loyd, Susan
Subject: factoid for boss

(b)(5)

Eliot

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:26 PM
To: G.Webb@iaea.org
Subject: Bloomberg reporter you mentioned

Weighed in with some questions for Bill Borchardt we're not going to answer. I directed the reporter to contact the IAEA. Here's what he was asking:

1. Why does Article 27 of the convention insist that "The content of the debates during the reviewing of the reports by the Contracting Parties at each meeting shall be confidential?"
2. What is the IAEA's role in regard to the Convention? What can it do in its role as Secretariat?
3. Would the CNS be the appropriate forum to strengthen international nuclear safety in the wake of Fukushima? What are the limitations and advantages?

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

BU/1238

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:25 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: tnt

JAPAN UPDATE HEARING – EDO Bill Borchardt, along with Peter Lyons (DOE), provided an update on the Fukushima situation before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee where over a dozen reporters and a half dozen media photographers were in attendance. Senator questions covered safety of U.S. plants and their spent fuel pools from tsunamis and earthquakes, enhancements to U.S. BWRs w/Mark I containments, the decision process for 50-mile evacuation recommendations of Americans in Japan, ocean contamination, reprocessing, adequacy of evacuation plans, impacts of Japan event on license renewal, and differences between U.S. and Japanese plants. A second panel followed with NEI and UCS. Bill responded to about a dozen questions from reporters after he left the hearing room, many of which were extensions of Senator questions and some that we couldn't answer until we've completed our 90-day review. One reporter pressed on whether the NRC has evaluated plants on the coast and near earthquake faults for the scenario that occurred in Japan where a tsunami quickly followed an earthquake.

Beth

BU/1239

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:25 PM
To: jtirone@bloomberg.net
Subject: questions sent to Bill Borchardt

Mr. Tirone: Mr. Borchardt forwarded your message to me. Upon looking over the questions, these are best directed to the head of the IAEA. I suggest you try that agency for a response.

Eliot Brenner

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

BU/1246

From: SIMON LOMAX, BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: <slomax@bloomberg.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:16 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: (BN) TVA Plans More Catastrophic Scenarios After Japan,

Hi Scott (cc Eliot)

Thanks again for your help (and the staff's) on Friday with Browns Ferry. Please find below the story we wrote off Kim Chipman's tour.

I also have a question for you and a housekeeping item.

Question: Of the 26 COL applications you've received since 2007, which applicants have asked you to suspend the review process to give them more time to decide whether they'll really build the plant or not? I see references in other nuclear stories to suspension requests but can't seem to find the place on the website where they're noted.

Housekeeping: I am heading out on vacation tomorrow, so instead of being pestered by me, you may hear from Kim Chipman, Jim Snyder or Katarzyna Klimasinska (Kasia) for short. At this stage it looks like Jim will be covering the House and Senate approps hearings this week. I'll be back March 7.

(Sorry to be running out on you for a week. If it gives you any comfort, I'll be spending a good amount of my time babysitting two nieces and a nephew -- all under age 7 -- at Disneyworld.)

+-----+

TVA Plans More Catastrophic Scenarios After Japan, Official Says
2011-03-25 23:30:46.79 GMT

(See EXT2 <GO> for coverage of the quake.)

By Kim Chipman and Simon Lomax

March 26 (Bloomberg) -- The Tennessee Valley Authority, owner of three nuclear power plants, has started considering more catastrophic scenarios after an earthquake and tsunami crippled reactors in Japan, the company's nuclear chief said.

The government-owned company's Browns Ferry reactors are designed to withstand a 6.0-magnitude earthquake and floods as high as 578 feet, said Preston Swafford, TVA's chief nuclear officer. The utility is rethinking its worst-case assumptions, he said yesterday at the plant near Huntsville, Alabama.

"We are now stepping back and saying: 'OK, what if it isn't 6 but it's an 8? What if the flood is more?'" Swafford told reporters yesterday before a tour of the plant. "I can't stand here and tell you all those answers, but what we are doing is looking."

The TVA said Browns Ferry is safer than the damaged Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant owned by Tokyo Electric Power Co. in Japan. Both facilities use the Mark 1 reactor design developed by General Electric Co. in the 1960s. Browns Ferry probably has better venting, backup power and ability to cool spent fuel pools than at Fukushima, according to TVA officials.

"We have measures in place, both designed into the plant and additional measures put in place beyond the basic design, that we think position us well to have strong defenses against any natural events or other issues," Chief Operating Officer Bill McCollum said yesterday in an interview.

The utility is studying the Japan reactor crisis to determine ways that the TVA's plants can be "stronger and better prepared," McCollum said.

'Single Events'

The TVA has planned for "single events," such as a flood or terrorist attack, Swafford said. Now, the utility may plan for simultaneous failures, he said.

The TVA shut all its nuclear units in 1985 because of safety concerns. Browns Ferry units 2 and 3 were restarted in 1991 and 1995. The plant's unit 1 was returned to service in 2007 after sitting idle for 22 years. The TVA spent \$1.8 billion on renovations.

Browns Ferry began operating in 1974 and had a fire the following year, the second-worst U.S. nuclear accident after Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in 1979.

The fire started at the plant's unit 1 reactor after a worker used a candle to search for air leaks. The seven-hour blaze damaged electrical power, control systems and instrumentation cables and impaired the reactor cooling system.

Officials from the Knoxville, Tennessee-based TVA conducted a tour of the Browns Ferry plant as Japanese authorities reported a possible reactor breach at Fukushima. Hidehiko Nishiyama, a spokesman at the Japan Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, said the core at the unit 3 reactor may be cracked and leaking radiation.

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U.S. nuclear-plant operations: [TNI VOLTOUT NRC <GO>](#) Power failures and plant shutdowns: [NI VOLTOUT <GO>](#) Top energy news: [ETOP <GO>](#) Nuclear news: [NI NUK <GO>](#) U.S. reactor status: [NRCR <GO>](#)

--With assistance from Joe Richter and Rich Heidorn Jr. in Washington. Editors: Steve Geimann, Joe Winski

To contact the reporters on this story:

Kim Chipman in Washington at +1-202-624-1927 or kchipman@bloomberg.net Simon Lomax in Washington at +1-202-654-4305 or slomax@bloomberg.net To contact the editor responsible for this story:

Larry Liebert at +1-202-624-1936 or

LLiebert@bloomberg.net

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:07 PM
To: nrc-editors@bulletinnews.com
Subject: FW: Google Alert - DOE nuclear loan guarantees

fyi

From: Google Alerts [mailto:googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:10 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Google Alert - DOE nuclear loan guarantees

News

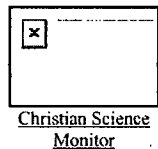
1 new result for DOE nuclear loan guarantees

How dangerous is nuclear power? Three lessons from Japan.

Christian Science Monitor

President Obama has tried to facilitate construction of new **nuclear** plants – as a response to global warming – through a **loan-guarantee** program run by the **Department of Energy**. He announced an initial \$8.3 billion for the program in February 2010, ...

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From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:06 PM
To: Hannah, Roger
Cc: Ledford, Joey; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: News Release II-11-013 (Browns Ferry Enforcement Conference)
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks. I will be on the hill tomorrow morning, and holly is gone. Anything you have tomorrow should go to beth. Same thing for Thursday.

From: Hannah, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Cc: Ledford, Joey
Subject: RE: News Release II-11-013 (Browns Ferry Enforcement Conference)

You may get a couple of others from us in the next day or so with little advance time...and I promise we are trying our best to force them through the process as early as possible here so I will apologize in advance for any that reach your email close to the planned issuance date...

Roger Hannah, APR
Senior Public Affairs Officer
Region II -- Atlanta, Ga.
Office - 404-997-4417
Cell - (b)(6)
roger.hannah@nrc.gov



From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:59 PM
To: Ledford, Joey; Hannah, Roger
Cc: Akstulewicz, Brenda
Subject: RE: News Release II-11-013 (Browns Ferry Enforcement Conference)

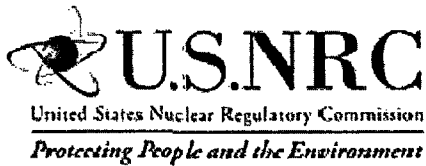
I know. I'm such a whiner. In my old age I just hate seeing a release the day before someone wants it to go out.

From: Ledford, Joey
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:50 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hannah, Roger
Cc: Akstulewicz, Brenda
Subject: RE: News Release II-11-013 (Browns Ferry Enforcement Conference)

Japan kind of overran our EOC preparation time.

Joey Ledford
Public Affairs Officer
Region II - Atlanta, Ga.
O: 404.997.4416

C: (b)(6)
joey.ledford@nrc.gov



From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:39 PM
To: Ledford, Joey
Cc: Akstulewicz, Brenda
Subject: RE: News Release II-11-013 (Browns Ferry Enforcement Conference)

OK, but please try to stay a little ahead on these things timewise.

From: Ledford, Joey
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:34 PM
To: OPAII
Subject: News Release II-11-013 (Browns Ferry Enforcement Conference)

See attached aimed for Wednesday release.

Joey Ledford
Public Affairs Officer
Region II - Atlanta, Ga.
O: 404.997.4416

C: (b)(6)
joey.ledford@nrc.gov



From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:54 PM
To: Shannon, Valerie; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Clarification on FOIA

Great news. We should share with the others . . .

From: Shannon, Valerie
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:48 PM
To: Harrington, Holly; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Clarification on FOIA

Holly,
Please see answers below.
Val

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 10:36 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Cc: Shannon, Valerie
Subject: Clarification on FOIA

I have been moving e-mails into a FOIA folder to cover the March 11-16th period. So far, I'm only looking at "received" e-mails. Based on what I've seen, I have a few additional questions:

1. Do I need to be capturing e-mails where I am simply cc'd? There are many e-mails where I am not the direct recipient, but folks were cc'ing me on. NO
2. Do I need to capture e-mails where someone simply replied to my e-mail with "thanks" or something similar? NO
3. Do I need to capture instructions for posting on the Web i.e. photos, captions, press releases? NO IF THEY WERE MADE PUBLIC.
4. Do I need to capture all the sit reps and other official information that went out routinely from various Liaison Team and HOO members where there are multiple recipients and no action on my part? NO Along the same line, do I need to capture receiving press releases from OPA.resource? NO

BV/1244

From: ELIOT.BRENNER@NRC.GOV
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Attachments: Document.pdf

BU/1245

(b)(5)

From: Couret, Ivonne
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:59 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: FYI - New Homepage Web image and caption

New image is on the website

From: WebContractor Resource
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Couret, Ivonne
Cc: Hardy, Sally; Janbergs, Holly
Subject: RE: New Homepage Web image and caption

Good Afternoon,

The updated home page photo & caption have been posted:
<http://148.184.174.31/>

Thank You,
David
Web Team

From: Couret, Ivonne
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:14 PM
To: WebWork Resource
Cc: Hardy, Sally; Janbergs, Holly
Subject: New Homepage Web image and caption

Caption –

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Executive Director for Operations Bill Borchardt (right) answers a question about the Japanese nuclear reactor accident Tuesday at an informational briefing held by members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Also speaking to the committee was Acting Assistant Energy Secretary for Nuclear Energy Peter B. Lyons (left).

Ivonne L. Couret
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Public Affairs
Media Desk
opa.resource@nrc.gov
301-415-8200

Visit our online photo gallery. Incorporate graphics and photographs to tell your story!
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery/>

2010-2011 Information Digest - Where you can find NRC Facts at a Glance
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>

BV/12 46

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:31 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: Sorry to be a burr in the saddle...

Might need backup on this one, I'll let you know.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

From: Colaccino, Joseph
To: Burnell, Scott
Cc: Akstulewicz, Frank; Matthews, David
Sent: Tue Mar 29 13:28:24 2011
Subject: Re: Sorry to be a burr in the saddle...

Scott,

Yes, I will get you a draft copy of the letter and the com plan.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thanks.

Sent from NRC Blackberry
Joe Colaccino

(b)(6)

From: Burnell, Scott
To: Colaccino, Joseph
Sent: Tue Mar 29 12:43:29 2011
Subject: Sorry to be a burr in the saddle...

Joe;

I do need the draft letter so I can start on the press release. I'm sure it'll need lots of NRO comment even before I take it upstairs. Thanks.

Scott

Bu/1247

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:30 PM
To: Borchardt, Bill
Subject: Fw: homework

Fyi
Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment
301 415 8200
C: (b)(6)
Sent from my Blackberry

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Schmidt, Rebecca
Sent: Tue Mar 29 11:40:30 2011
Subject: homework

(b)(5)

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

BU/1248

From: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:12 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Borchardt, Bill; Skeen, David
Subject: RE: BLOOMBERG: CONVENTION-NUCLEAR-SAFETY

Eliot, would you please refer. [REDACTED]

(b)(5)

Margie

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:28 AM
To: Borchardt, Bill; Doane, Margaret; Skeen, David
Subject: RE: BLOOMBERG: CONVENTION-NUCLEAR-SAFETY

[REDACTED]

(b)(5)

Eliot

-----Original Message-----

From: Borchardt, Bill
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Doane, Margaret; Skeen, David
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Fw: BLOOMBERG: CONVENTION-NUCLEAR-SAFETY

[REDACTED]

(b)(5)

Bill Borchardt
Via blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: JONATHAN TIRONE, BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM: <jtirone@bloomberg.net>
To: Borchardt, Bill
Sent: Tue Mar 29 08:12:48 2011
Subject: BLOOMBERG: CONVENTION-NUCLEAR-SAFETY

Dear Mr. Borchardt,

Bu/1249

My name is Jonathan Tirone and I'm a journalist with Bloomberg News covering the IAEA in Vienna. We are writing about next week's Convention on Nuclear Safety meeting and want to ask a few questions before the April 4 plenary begins.

As you are undoubtedly aware, public interest in nuclear safety is at heights not seen since the Chernobyl era, when the CNS was born. It would seem that one of the early lessons that can be drawn from the Fukushima incident, where tsunami risk assessments were overlooked, is that nuclear safety could benefit from more public and peer review.

We'd appreciate your input in helping our readers to understand this issue by taking the time to answer the following questions:

1. Why does Article 27 of the convention insist that "The content of the debates during the reviewing of the reports by the Contracting Parties at each meeting shall be confidential?"
2. What is the IAEA's role in regard to the Convention? What can it do in its role as Secretariat?
3. Would the CNS be the appropriate forum to strengthen international nuclear safety in the wake of Fukushima? What are the limitations and advantages?

Thanks again for your consideration of my questions. I'm available by telephone if you'd prefer to talk.

With Kind Regards,

>> Jonathan Tirone, MALD

>> Bloomberg News

>> Kaerntner Ring 9-13

>> Palais Corso 6

>> 1010 Wien, Austria, EU

>> e-mail: jtirone@bloomberg.net

>> o: +431 513 266 025

>> m: (b)(6)

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: blog post

Perfect. Love it. Will post today!

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:02 PM
To: Harrington, Holly
Subject: blog post

Greetings from the trenches, and welcome to our world.

First, thanks to every line of business that pitched in with expertise or personnel to help the Office of Public Affairs keep churning out information in the past two-plus weeks. We could not do this without the assistance we received. We will likewise need your help going forward.

It started with a 4:04 a.m. email from an IAEA-based event reporting system, and within two hours OPA was on the move, preparing to deal with an onslaught that has so far slowed only slightly.

Some observations:

- The structure for operating in crisis put in place by OPA functioned well, although it was quickly apparent that while our staff is talented, it needs augmentation to deal with any sustained crisis.
- The volume of calls received by OPA may well have topped 10,000. We did not keep track, but it sure seemed that way.
- This was our first chance to use social media in a crisis situation. The OPA staff kept churning out material to feed the new agency blog. The blog received 5,000-plus views a day and, we think, was probably passed on through a variety of social media. Thanks to our IT gurus who cleared the way for OPA to keep its finger on the social media pulse.
- Website visits doubled and tripled depending on the degree of crisis being reported by the media.
- If you think the competition among networks to "get" a guest for a show is intense, it is nothing compared to the competition between shows on the same network to score the coup for their show. The backbiting is unbelievable.

One of the things I preach when I give speeches to industry and public affairs groups is to: plan, prepare and practice. Clearly the agency's regular preparation in emergency drills paid off across the NRC spectrum and within OPA. Things got tense, but the system worked.

This was not my first time at the rodeo, thank goodness. My crisis communication background includes a variety of high profile plane crashes. In many respects, this was like a crash ... only in slow motion.

Now, after the dust settles somewhat, the focus of stories is going to turn inward on the NRC and look at how we have built our system of regulation over the years, and whether it needs changes. That turn has already started. We'll be asking ourselves what we can do to improve, and some will be pressing us to justify decisions made in the past that might have eliminated the need for change now. It's a fairly typical evolution in the unfolding of a disaster.

So, we'll gird ourselves for the long haul. OPA will be bugging people for answers, and thanks in advance for the continuing assistance.

Eliot Brenner

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.

O: 301-415-8200

C: (b)(6)

From: Shannon, Valerie
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:47 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Sheehan, Neil; Hayden, Elizabeth; Burnell, Scott
Subject: FOIA E-mails

FYI,

After our office completes the process of collecting our records for FOIA-2011-0119, the four of you have two more FOIA's to respond to. So please do not delete any of your e-mails yet.

Thank You,

Val

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:15 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: FW: RESPONSE - News Article on SOARCA
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg

fyi

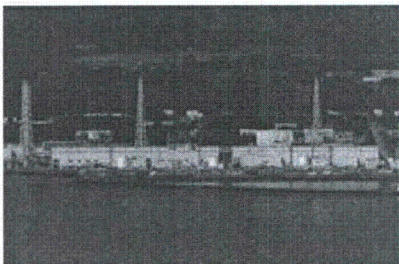
From: Weber, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:14 PM
To: Sheron, Brian
Cc: Virgilio, Martin; Leeds, Eric; Johnson, Michael; Wiggins, Jim; Rihm, Roger; Milligan, Patricia; Wittick, Brian; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Schmidt, Rebecca; Powell, Amy; Muessle, Mary; Andersen, James; Bowman, Gregory
Subject: RESPONSE - News Article on SOARCA

Thanks, Brian. I'll need to be prepared to respond to this concern in tomorrow morning's hearing and the Chairman will need to be prepared to respond at his hearings tomorrow. Please work with OEDO staff (Roger Rihm/Brian Wittick) to ensure that we develop a short-response by COB today that we can use tomorrow in case this comes up.

David Lochbaum reported at this morning's hearing that 93 of the U.S. plants only had a 4-hour coping capacity for SBO. The rest could cope for 8 hours. Is this valid? Does this taken into consideration the B5b mitigating measures? Was SBO considered among the scenarios that resulted in the U.S. decision to establish the nominal exposure pathway EPZ at 10 miles?

AP IMPACT: Long blackouts pose risk to US reactors

AP Associated Press



AP – Only Unit 2 is covered with white concrete housing, seen on left of an iron tower on right, at the stricken ...

By DINA CAPPIELLO, Associated Press Dina Cappiello, Associated Press – Tue Mar 29, 3:13 am ET

WASHINGTON – Long before the nuclear emergency in Japan, U.S. regulators knew that a power failure lasting for days at an American nuclear plant, whatever the cause, could lead to a radioactive leak. Even so, they

have only required the nation's 104 nuclear reactors to develop plans for dealing with much shorter blackouts on the assumption that power would be restored quickly.

In one nightmare simulation presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2009, it would take less than a day for radiation to escape from a reactor at a Pennsylvania nuclear power plant after an earthquake, flood or fire knocked out all electrical power and there was no way to keep the reactors cool after backup battery power ran out. That plant, the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station outside Lancaster, has reactors of the same older make and model as those releasing radiation at Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, which is using other means to try to cool the reactors.

And like Fukushima Dai-ichi, the Peach Bottom plant has enough battery power on site to power emergency cooling systems for eight hours. In Japan, that wasn't enough time for power to be restored. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Institute trade association, three of the six reactors at the plant still can't get power to operate the emergency cooling systems. Two were shut down at the time. In the sixth, the fuel was removed completely and put in the spent fuel pool when it was shut down for maintenance at the time of the disaster. A week after the March 11 earthquake, diesel generators started supplying power to two other two reactors, Units 5 and 6, the groups said.

The risk of a blackout leading to core damage, while extremely remote, exists at all U.S. nuclear power plants, and some are more susceptible than others, according to an Associated Press investigation. While regulators say they have confidence that measures adopted in the U.S. will prevent or significantly delay a core from melting and threatening a radioactive release, the events in Japan raise questions about whether U.S. power plants are as prepared as they could and should be.

"We didn't address a tsunami and an earthquake, but clearly we have known for some time that one of the weak links that makes accidents a little more likely is losing power," said Alan Kolaczowski, a retired nuclear engineer who worked on a federal risk analysis of Peach Bottom released in 1990 and is familiar with the updated risk analysis.

Risk analyses conducted by the plants in 1991-94 and published by the commission in 2003 show that the chances of such an event striking a U.S. power plant are remote, even at the plant where the risk is the highest, the Beaver Valley Power Station in Pennsylvania.

These long odds are among the reasons why the United States since the late 1980s has only required nuclear power plants to cope with blackouts for four or eight hours, depending on the risk. That's about how much time batteries would last. After that, it is assumed that power would be restored. And so far, that's been the case.

Equipment put in place after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks could buy more time. Otherwise, the reactor's radioactive core could begin to melt unless alternative cooling methods were employed. In Japan, the utility has tried using portable generators and dumped tons of seawater, among other things, on the reactors in an attempt to keep them cool.

A 2003 federal analysis looking at how to estimate the risk of containment failure said that should power be knocked out by an earthquake or tornado it "would be unlikely that power will be recovered in the time frame to prevent core meltdown."

In Japan, it was a one-two punch: first the earthquake, then the tsunami.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., the operator of the crippled plant, found other ways to cool the reactor core and so far avert a full-scale meltdown without electricity.

"Clearly the coping duration is an issue on the table now," said Biff Bradley, director of risk assessment for the Nuclear Energy Institute. "The industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will have to go back in light of what we just observed and rethink station blackout duration."

David Lochbaum, a former plant engineer and nuclear safety director at the advocacy group Union of Concerned Scientists, put it another way: "Japan shows what happens when you play beat-the-clock and lose."

Lochbaum plans to use the Japan disaster to press lawmakers and the nuclear power industry to do more when it comes to coping with prolonged blackouts, such as having temporary generators on site that can recharge batteries.

A complete loss of electrical power, generally speaking, poses a major problem for a nuclear power plant because the reactor core must be kept cool, and back-up cooling systems — mostly pumps that replenish the core with water — require massive amounts of power to work.

Without the electrical grid, or diesel generators, batteries can be used for a time, but they will not last long with the power demands. And when the batteries die, the systems that control and monitor the plant can also go dark, making it difficult to ascertain water levels and the condition of the core.

One variable not considered in the NRC risk assessments of severe blackouts was cooling water in spent fuel pools, where rods once used in the reactor are placed. With limited resources, the commission decided to focus its analysis on the reactor fuel, which has the potential to release more radiation.

An analysis of individual plant risks released in 2003 by the NRC shows that for 39 of the 104 nuclear reactors, the risk of core damage from a blackout was greater than 1 in 100,000. At 45 other plants the risk is greater than 1 in 1 million, the threshold NRC is using to determine which severe accidents should be evaluated in its latest analysis.

The Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 1, in Pennsylvania had the greatest risk of core melt — 6.5 in 100,000, according to the analysis. But that risk may have been reduced in subsequent years as NRC regulations required plants to do more to cope with blackouts. Todd Schneider, a spokesman for FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co., which runs Beaver Creek, told the AP that batteries on site would last less than a week.

In 1988, eight years after labeling blackouts "an unresolved safety issue," the NRC required nuclear power plants to improve the reliability of their diesel generators, have more backup generators on site, and better train personnel to restore power. These steps would allow them to keep the core cool for four to eight hours if they lost all electrical power. By contrast, the newest generation of nuclear power plant, which is still awaiting approval, can last 72 hours without taking any action, and a minimum of seven days if water is supplied by other means to cooling pools.

Despite the added safety measures, a 1997 report found that blackouts — the loss of on-site and off-site electrical power — remained "a dominant contributor to the risk of core melt at some plants." The events of Sept. 11, 2001, further solidified that nuclear reactors might have to keep the core cool for a longer period without power. After 9/11, the commission issued regulations requiring that plants have portable power supplies for relief valves and be able to manually operate an emergency reactor cooling system when batteries go out.

The NRC says these steps, and others, have reduced the risk of core melt from station blackouts from the current fleet of nuclear plants.

For instance, preliminary results of the latest analysis of the risks to the Peach Bottom plant show that any release caused by a blackout there would be far less rapid and would release less radiation than previously

thought, even without any actions being taken. With more time, people can be evacuated. The NRC says improved computer models, coupled with up-to-date information about the plant, resulted in the rosier outlook.

"When you simplify, you always err towards the worst possible circumstance," Scott Burnell, a spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said of the earlier studies. The latest work shows that "even in situations where everything is broken and you can't do anything else, these events take a long time to play out," he said. "Even when you get to releasing into environment, much less of it is released than actually thought."

Exelon Corp., the operator of the Peach Bottom plant, referred all detailed questions about its preparedness and the risk analysis back to the NRC. In a news release issued earlier this month, the company, which operates 10 nuclear power plants, said "all Exelon nuclear plants are able to safely shut down and keep the fuel cooled even without electricity from the grid."

Other people, looking at the crisis unfolding in Japan, aren't so sure.

In the worst-case scenario, the NRC's 1990 risk assessment predicted that a core melt at Peach Bottom could begin in one hour if electrical power on- and off-site were lost, the diesel generators — the main back-up source of power for the pumps that keep the core cool with water — failed to work and other mitigating steps weren't taken.

"It is not a question that those things are definitely effective in this kind of scenario," said Richard Denning, a professor of nuclear engineering at Ohio State University, referring to the steps NRC has taken to prevent incidents. Denning had done work as a contractor on severe accident analyses for the NRC since 1975. He retired from Battelle Memorial Institute in 1995.

"They certainly could have made all the difference in this particular case," he said, referring to Japan. "That's assuming you have stored these things in a place that would not have been swept away by tsunami."

From: Chang, Richard

Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:35 AM

To: Schaperow, Jason; Tinkler, Charles; Santiago, Patricia; Ghosh, Tina; Armstrong, Kenneth

Subject: FYI- News Article on SOARCA

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110329/ap_on_re_us/us_us_japan_nuclear_blackouts_2

Richard Chang

Program Manager

RES/DSA/SPB

301-251-7980

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: matt's blog

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/live-blogging-a-senate-hearing-on-nuclear-safety/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

David McIntyre
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(301) 415-8206 (direct)
(b)(6) (mobile)
Protecting People & the Environment

BV/1253

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:43 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Bill and media

Answered about half doz questions and then we got him out of there.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:42 AM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: claudé will come by

Yes, took notes and shot a note to becky about it. saw Lochbaum come to our defense!

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:37 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: claudé will come by

Are you still watching?

(b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Tue Mar 29 11:26:25 2011
Subject: claudé will come by

For the presentation you and spiros make. Just talked with him.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

BU/1255

From: Couret, Ivonne
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 11:21 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Attachments: SD_366.pdf

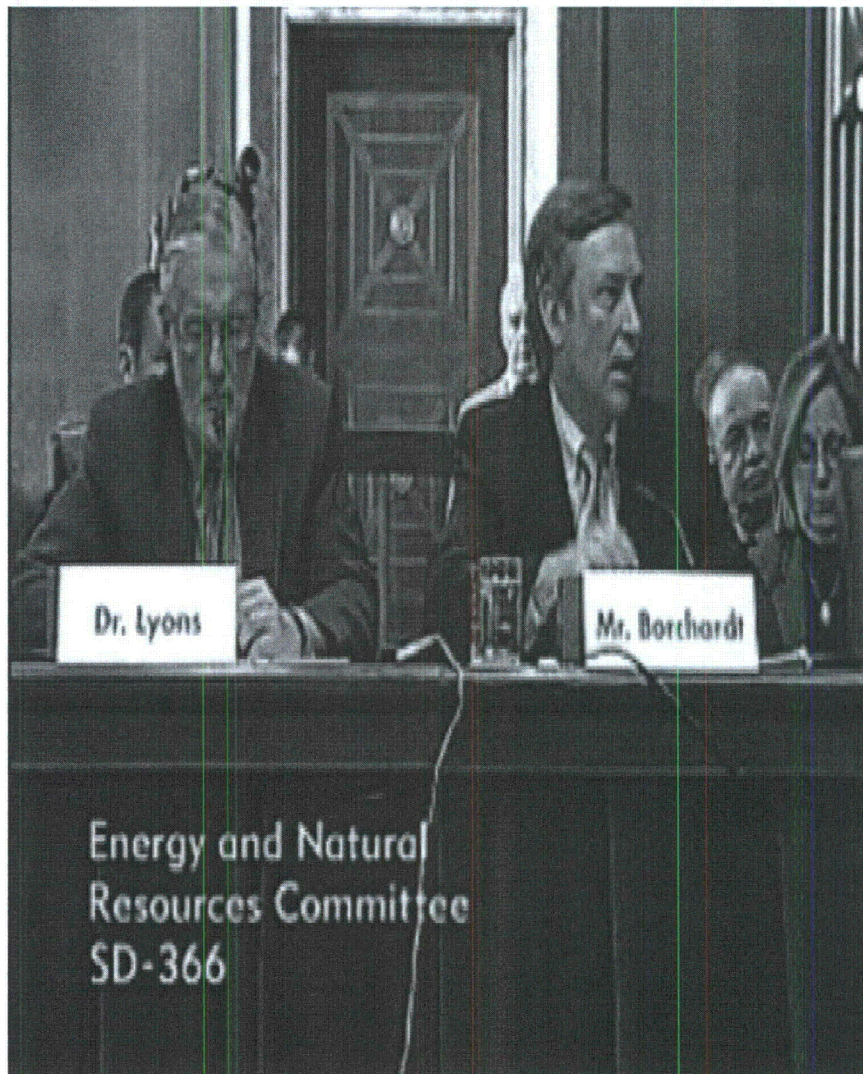
Both original screen dumps and just the image of panel. Ivonne

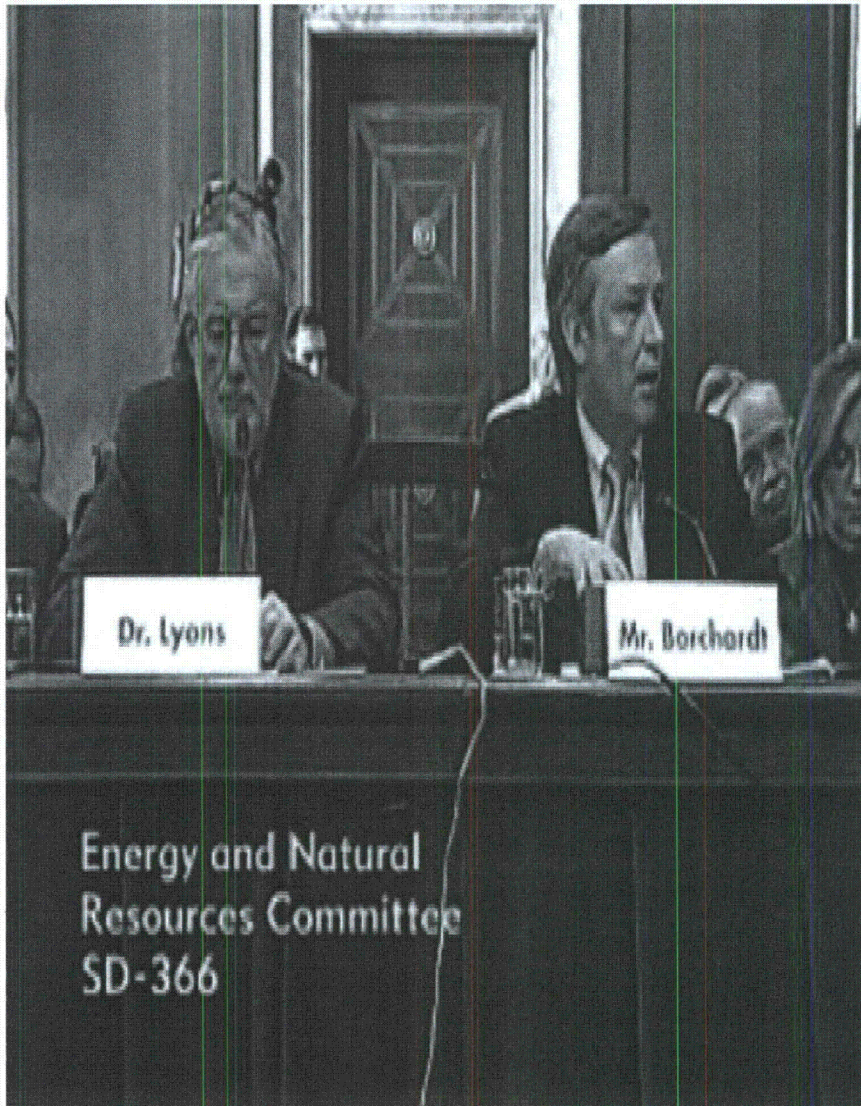
Ivonne L. Couret
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Public Affairs
Media Desk
opa.resource@nrc.gov
301-415-8200

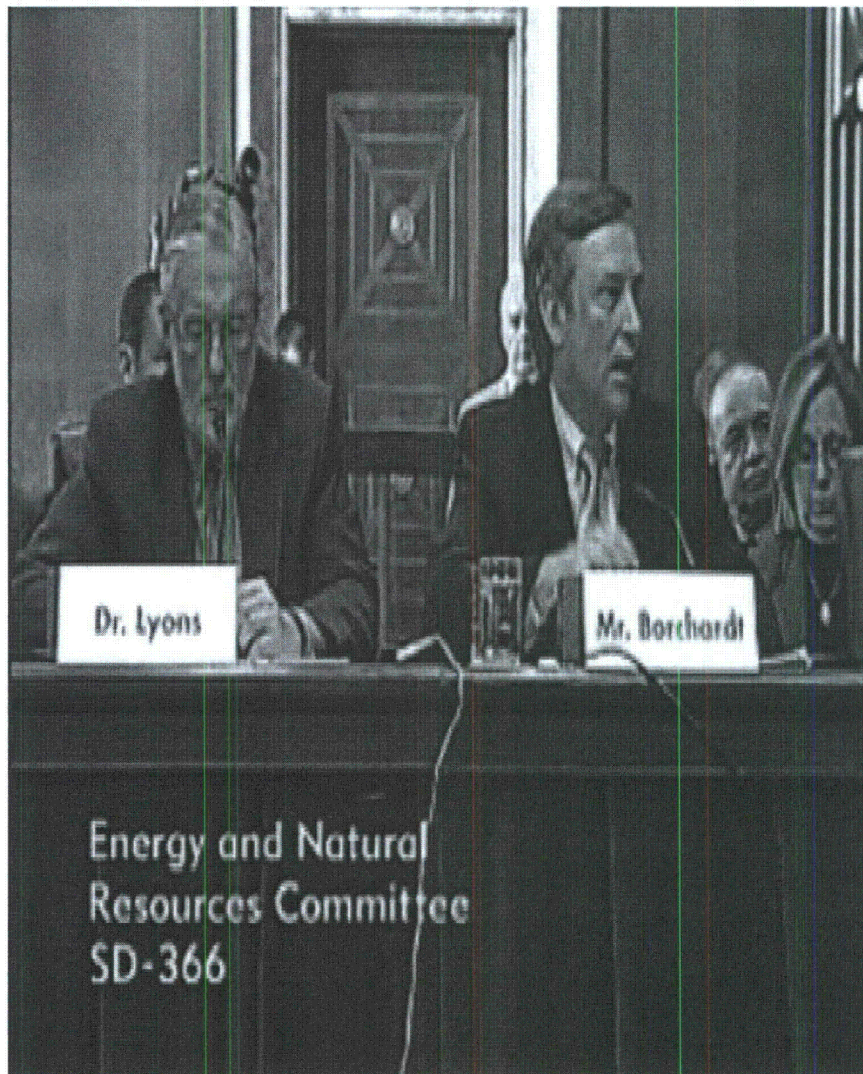
Visit our online photo gallery. Incorporate graphics and photographs to tell your story!
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery/>

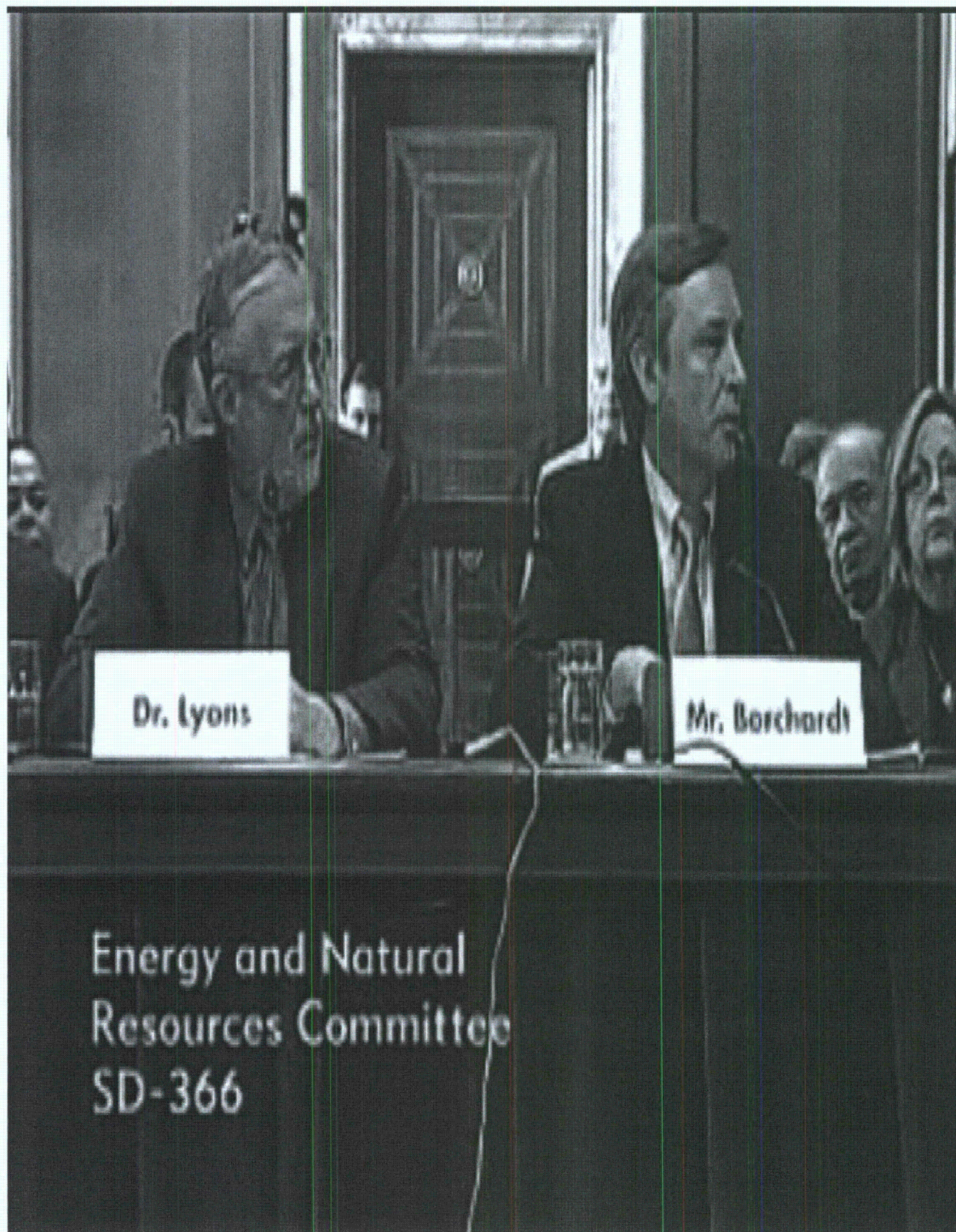
2010-2011 Information Digest - Where you can find NRC Facts at a Glance
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/>

BU/1256









Energy and Natural
Resources Committee
SD-366



United States Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

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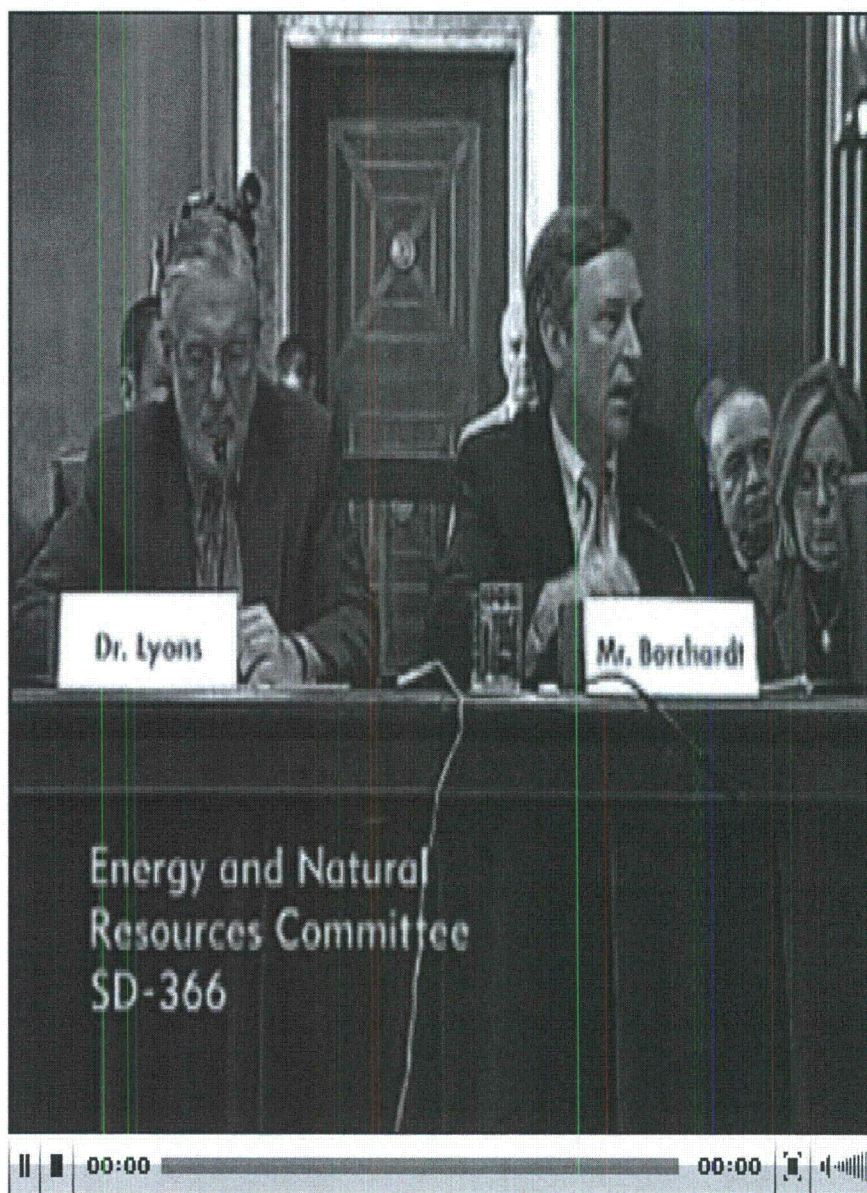
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United States Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

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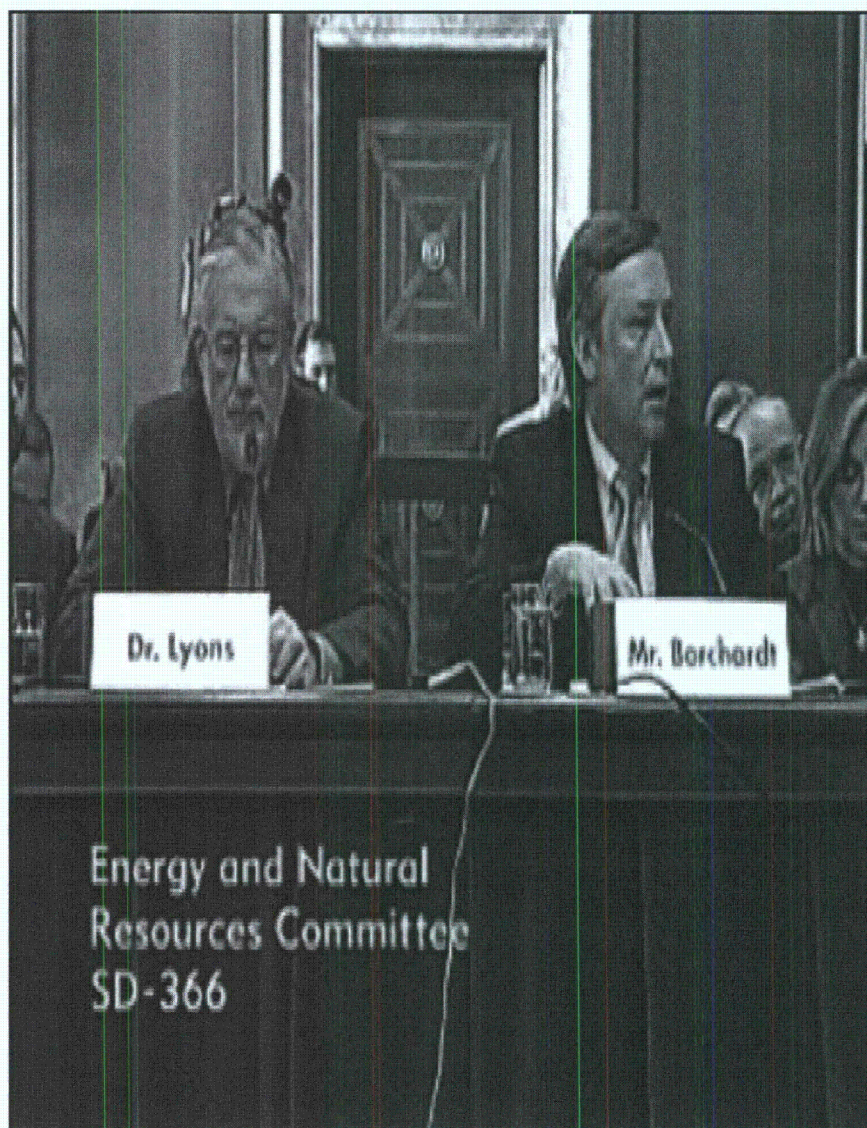
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Hearing Schedule



Energy and Natural
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SD-366

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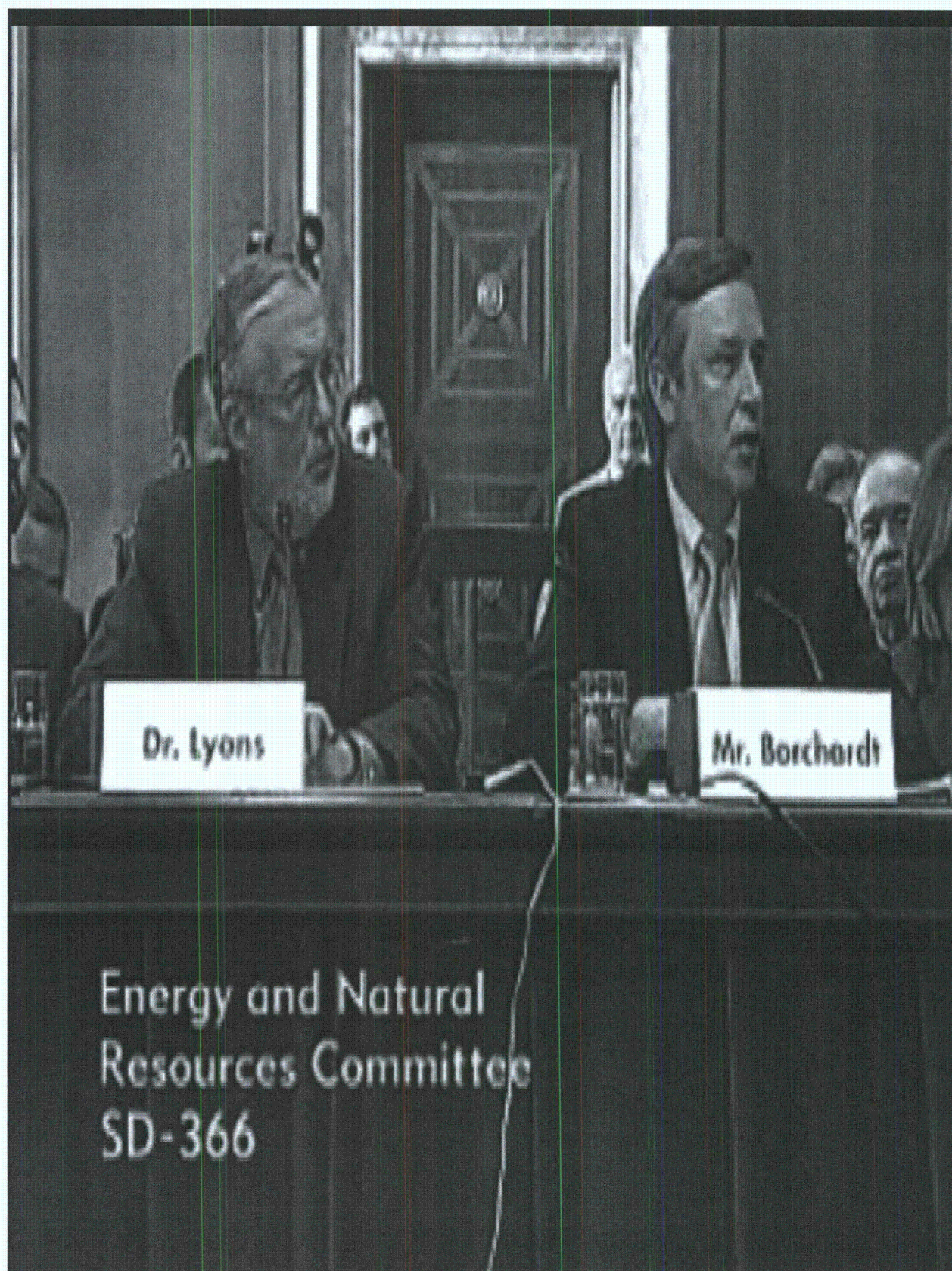
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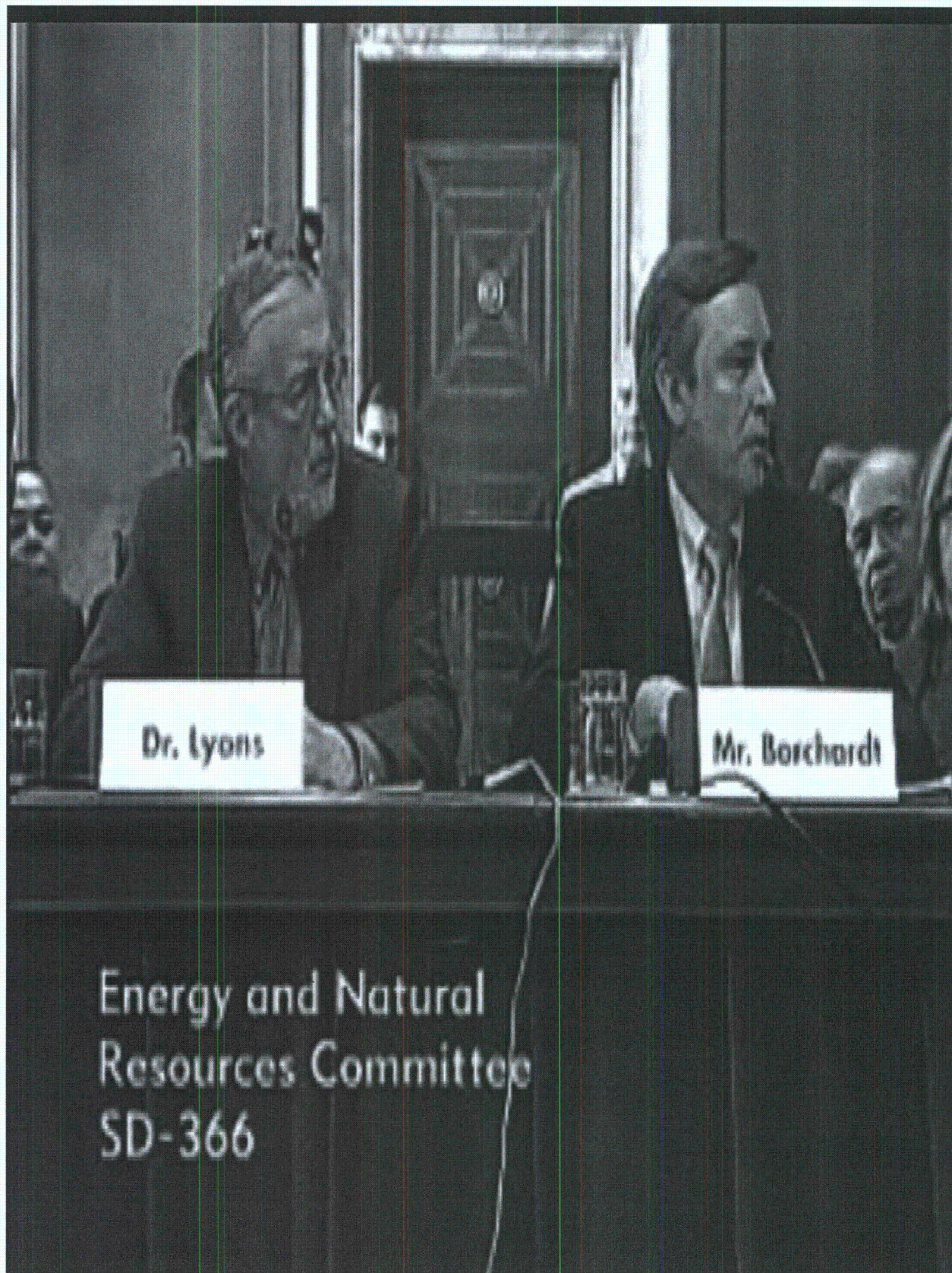
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Hea



From: Jasinski, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:21 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Not That U Asked, But.....

Eliot:

Kudos on your blog reports on the Japanese situation. I think they're super, as do friends and associates of mine who actually read them. I know you and the team are going through a heck

of a time, but I commend your quality and thoughtful work.....Regards.

Bob Jasinski
Senior Communications
Specialist, PMDA
Office of New Reactors
301-415-1542

BV/1257

From: EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.ccsend.com> on behalf of EnergyGuardian <energy@washingtonguardian.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:15 AM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: News from EnergyGuardian

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Here are your energy and environment headlines for the morning of Tuesday, March 29, 2011:

In This E-Mail

Analysis: The Word Not Spoken—Oil

Hasting to unveil energy bill to expand drilling

Bingaman launches congressional reviews of Japan nuclear crisis

Japan on 'high alert' after plutonium leak discovered at reactors

Gas prices eat into spending spurred by tax cuts

Obama defends Libya intervention on moral terms

New York AG attacks fire safety at nuclear plants

South Carolina latest state to challenge new light bulb standards

Feds issue new guidance on drilling rules

Renewable energy groups urge lawmakers to preserve loan guarantees

Health groups press senators to reject two-year ban on EPA greenhouse gas rules

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Koch-backed group to press senators on EPA vote

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Halliburton says Libya sanctions will hurt bottom line

New judges take over Chevron case in Ecuador

Exxon project in Iraq exceeds production milestone

Libyan rebels want to sell oil to raise money for weapons

Worker killed at Exxon refinery in Singapore

Daybook: Upcoming events

Analysis: The Word Not Spoken—Oil

By John Solomon

President Barack Obama justified the U.S military strikes in Libya on moral grounds, declaring that America's humanitarian values necessitated stopping the slaughter of innocent civilians by Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

But in a half-hour nationally televised speech Monday night, the president never spoke the word that might have far longer-term consequences from the unrest sweeping the Arab world: oil.

Since the unrest began in Egypt and swept across the Middle East and northern Africa, oil prices have soared well above \$100 a barrel and Americans seem resolved to prices at the pump reaching \$4 or even \$5 by year's end.

For much of the Arab uprising this spring, Obama and the United States have played the role of cheerleader to nascent democracy movements in Egypt, Bahrain, Syria and Yemen.

On Libya—home to some of the world's richest crude though not a major supplier to the United States—he took it a step further, authorizing air strikes to cripple Gadhafi's forces before they could stomp the opposition rebels.

Obama gave clear answers Monday night for why he did so—it was imperative to stop the slaughter of civilians by a ruthless dictator. "There will be times when our safety is not directly threatened, but our interests and values are," the president said.

And he gave a clear limit to American force - the goal is not to unseat Gadhafi from power by using military might, the president declared.

What he did not address is the potential quagmire if Gadhafi can survive in power in a prolonged standoff that further disrupts oil supplies. And he did not lay out clear parameters for intervening in other oil-rich countries should horrific violence threaten civilians under similar regimes.

Like George W. Bush who justified Iraq before him, Obama did not utter the words oil and gas Monday night. The closest he came was a passage in which he said there is an American interest in "maintaining the flow of commerce."

Even though Libya supplies a pittance of U.S oil, it can still hurt the American pocketbook by lowering production and increasing panic in other countries it

supplies. The impact is already evident.

Just examine the oil prices of the last week: they rose above \$106 a barrel when the rebels appeared to be losing, then dropped Tuesday to below \$104 with word U.S. airstrikes had allowed the rebel forces to capture key oil assets.

Likewise, American companies that rushed into Libya a few years after the thawing of relations like Halliburton are already raising concerns about lost profits from the crisis.

A prolonged civil war with uncertain outcomes could only drive prices and market jitters higher in coming weeks.

And the inability of the White House and Congress to craft any sort of meaningful, bipartisan energy policy most likely destines consumers to be at the mercy of oil speculators for weeks or months to come.

Hasting to unveil energy bill to expand drilling

By Edward Felker

House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings plans to introduce Tuesday his American Energy Initiative bill aiming to boost oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and the Outer Continental Shelf.

Aides to Hastings, R-Wash., declined to release details ahead of a planned morning news conference with other pro-drilling House Republicans. But Hastings earlier this month previewed the bill, stating that he planned to "put the Gulf of Mexico back to work" and end what he called President Barack Obama's re-imposition of a de facto drilling moratorium off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Hastings, at a March 16 committee hearing, said Republicans would act in the face of gasoline prices climbing toward amounts not seen since the oil price spike in 2008.

"When it comes to an energy policy for our nation, the president is headed 180 degrees in the wrong direction. His policies are taking our nation towards gasoline prices over \$4 per gallon, more and more good-paying energy jobs being lost overseas, and a deeper dependence on foreign sources of energy from hostile and volatile regions of the world," Hastings said.

Hastings' bill is part of a larger push by House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to advance domestic energy production in response to rising crude oil prices and the slow re-start of drilling in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon blowout last year.

The Interior Department has begun approving deepwater permits, including its

sixth this weekend, and issued revised drilling safety rules on Monday that were lauded as a positive step forward by the American Petroleum Institute.

Still, Republicans and the API have said that the pace of permitting is far too slow and that investment in domestic drilling will wither without faster approvals.

Proposals to expand oil drilling beyond areas already open in the Gulf of Mexico have proven politically difficult in the Senate, particularly for areas off the tourist beaches of southern California and Florida.

Obama proposed opening the southern Atlantic Ocean to new drilling before the Deepwater Horizon sinking and Macondo well spill, but subsequently moved to put the region off limits until 2017 at the earliest.

Bingaman launches congressional reviews of Japan nuclear crisis

By Edward Felker

Even as the Fukushima nuclear plant crisis in Japan drags on, Congress was set Tuesday to begin delving into the implications for domestic nuclear power, which could cloud prospects for more taxpayer support for the industry.

Just three days before the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman and ranking Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, with Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., introduced legislation to expand federal support for small "modular" nuclear reactors.

They followed a budget pitch by President Barack Obama to triple loan guarantees for nuclear plants, to \$54 billion.

Those proposals now must overcome fresh concerns over the ability of American nuclear plants to withstand unexpected disasters.

The issues will take center stage at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee meeting Tuesday to hear more about the situation in Japan from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Department.

The meeting will be run similarly to a hearing, but because of the informal status administration witnesses will not be speaking for the committee record and did not need the additional time to have testimony cleared by the White House Office of Management and Budget, committee spokesman Bill Wicker said.

Wicker said Bingaman, D-N.M., did not call the meeting with a particular bill in mind, but the testimony will inform committee work ahead, including

consideration of a potential clean energy standard.

Robert Dillon, the spokesman for Murkowski, R-Alaska, said she was not planning legislation based on the Tuesday meeting, and sees it primarily as a listening session.

Both spokesmen said the senators have no plans to drop their modular nuclear bill, though Wicker stressed that new information from Japan will be considered in all committee legislation.

Scheduled to speak are Peter Lyons, the acting assistant secretary for nuclear energy at the Energy Department, and Bill Borchardt, the executive director for operations at the NRC.

Borchardt last week detailed the 90-day and six-month domestic safety reviews that the commission adopted late in the week.

Also speaking are David Lochbaum, an expert at the nuclear watchdog Union of Concerned Scientists, and Anthony R. Pietrangelo, the chief nuclear officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Lochbaum told reporters Monday that he will recommend the government speed up the transfer of spent nuclear fuel out of tightly-packed cooling pools and into dry cask storage, to lessen the impact of the loss of cooling capacity.

He also plans to urge that the NRC examine how long it would take to get additional power sources to a plant that experiences a blackout, and require backup battery power equal to that time period.

Pietrangelo said, through a spokesman, that he will stress the industry's efforts to ward off complacency and its ability to incorporate lessons from past accidents. He will also note that the industry has taken steps to make sure plants can manage extreme events.

The hearing may be the first, but won't be the last on Capitol Hill as lawmakers look for parallels between the Fukushima plant disaster and the designs and emergency response plans of U.S. plants

On Wednesday, the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee is to hold a formal hearing on the Japan crisis and its impact on nuclear safety, with NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko and Lyons scheduled to testify.

Japan on 'high alert' after plutonium leak discovered at reactors

By Mari Yamaguchi and Yuri Kageyama

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's leader insisted Tuesday that the country was on

“maximum alert” to bring its nuclear crisis under control, but the spread of radiation and a new, toxic plutonium leak raised concerns about the ability of experts to stabilize the crippled reactor complex.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan told parliament that Japan was grappling with its worst problems since World War II.

“This quake, tsunami and the nuclear accident are the biggest crises for Japan” in decades, Kan said, dressed in one of the blue work jackets that have become ubiquitous among bureaucrats since the tsunami. He said the crises remained unpredictable, but added: “From now on, we will continue to handle it in a state of maximum alert.”

The magnitude-9.0 offshore earthquake on March 11 triggered a tsunami that slammed minutes later into Japan’s northeast, wiping out towns and knocking out power and backup systems at the coastal Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant.

Police said more than 11,000 bodies have been recovered, but the final death toll is expected to exceed 18,000. Hundreds of thousands remain homeless, their homes and livelihoods destroyed. Damage could amount to \$310 billion — the most expensive natural disaster on record, the government said.

Against the backdrop of the humanitarian disaster, the drama at the power plant has continued to develop, with workers fighting fires, explosions, radiation scares and miscalculations in the frantic bid to prevent a complete meltdown.

The plant has been leaking radiation that has made its way into vegetables, raw milk and tap water as far as Tokyo. Residents within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the plant were ordered to leave and some nations banned the imports of food products from the Fukushima region.

Highly toxic plutonium was the latest contaminant found seeping into the soil outside the plant, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said.

Safety officials said the amounts did not pose a risk to humans, but they said the finding supports suspicions that dangerously radioactive water is leaking from damaged nuclear fuel rods.

“The situation is very grave,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told reporters Tuesday. “We are doing our utmost to contain the damage.”

Gas prices eat into spending spurred by tax cuts

By Martin Crutsinger

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are earning and spending more, but a lot of

the extra money is going down their gas tanks. Gas prices have drained more than half the extra cash Americans are getting this year from a cut in Social Security taxes.

Unlike some other kinds of spending, paying more for gas doesn't help the economy much. Most of the money goes overseas, and higher prices leave people with less money to buy appliances, computers, plane tickets and other things that can be postponed.

"When food and gasoline prices are rising, it causes people to hunker down," said Chris G. Christopher Jr., senior economist at IHS Global Insight.

Consumer spending jumped 0.7 percent last month, and personal incomes rose 0.3 percent, the Commerce Department said Monday. Both gains reflected the cut of two percentage points in the Social Security tax, raising take-home pay.

They also illustrated how higher gas prices are stressing household budgets. After adjusting for inflation, spending rose just 0.3 percent. After-tax incomes actually fell 0.1 percent.

The Social Security tax cut will give most households an additional \$1,000 to \$2,000 this year. In December, when President Barack Obama signed it into law, economists predicted higher take-home pay would lead to more spending and stronger economic growth.

But gas prices have jumped more than 50 cents a gallon this year. In late December, they hit \$3 a gallon for the first time in two years. Last week, they averaged \$3.58 nationwide, according to AAA's daily fuel gauge survey.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, has reduced his forecast for 2011 economic growth from 3.9 percent to 3.5 percent, in part because of gas prices. That would still be better than last year's 2.9 percent growth and the biggest expansion since before the recession.

Still, much of the anticipated benefit from the tax cut will be lost. Christopher estimates half to two-thirds of the extra cash will ultimately go toward higher gas prices. Food prices have also risen in recent months, he noted.

Obama defends Libya intervention on moral terms

By Ben Feller

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defending the first war launched on his watch, President Barack Obama declared Monday night that the United States intervened in Libya to prevent a slaughter of civilians that would have stained the world's conscience and "been a betrayal of who we are." Yet he ruled out targeting Moammar Gadhafi, warning that trying to oust him militarily would

be a costly mistake.

Obama announced that NATO would take command over the entire Libya operation on Wednesday, keeping his pledge to get the U.S. out of the lead — but offering no estimate on when the conflict might end.

He never described the U.S.-led military campaign as a “war” and gave no details on its costs, but he offered an expansive case for why he believed it was in the national interest of the United States and allies to act.

In blunt terms, Obama said the U.S.-led response had stopped Gadhafi’s advances and halted a slaughter he warned could have shaken the stability of an entire region.

“To brush aside America’s responsibility as a leader and — more profoundly — our responsibilities to our fellow human beings under such circumstances would have been a betrayal of who we are,” Obama said. “Some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries. The United States of America is different. And as president, I refused to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action.”

Obama spoke to a respectful military audience at the National Defense University after, in Libya, rebel forces bore down Monday on Gadhafi with the help of airstrikes by the U.S.-led forces. The address to the nation was the president’s most aggressive attempt to answer the questions mounting from Republican critics, his own party and war-weary Americans — chiefly, why the U.S. was immersed in war in another Muslim nation.

Amid protests and crackdowns across the Middle East and North Africa, Obama stated his case that Libya stands alone. “In this particular country, at this particular moment, we were faced with the prospect of violence on a horrific scale,” he said.

He also warned of the broader implications for the region, without naming the other countries undergoing violent upheaval.

Citing a failure to act in Libya, he said: “The democratic impulses that are dawning across the region would be eclipsed by the darkest form of dictatorship, as repressive leaders concluded that violence is the best strategy to cling to power. The writ of the U.N. Security Council would have been shown to be little more than empty words, crippling its future credibility to uphold global peace and security.”

The president also sought to address critics who have said the U.S. mission remains muddled. Indeed, he reiterated the White House position that Gadhafi should not remain in power but the U.N. resolution that authorized power does not go that far.

That gap in directives has left the White House to deal with the prospect that

Gadhafi will remain indefinitely. Obama said the U.S. would try to isolate him other ways.

“Broadening our military mission to include regime change would be a mistake,” Obama said. “If we tried to overthrow Gadhafi by force, our coalition would splinter. We would likely have to put U.S. troops on the ground or risk killing many civilians from the air. The dangers faced by our men and women in uniform would be far greater. So would the costs and our share of the responsibility for what comes next.”

You can view the full speech [here](#).

New York AG attacks fire safety at nuclear plants

By The Associated Press

New York’s attorney general says federal regulators should take action against nuclear plants in the New York suburbs for what he called failure to comply with fire safety regulations.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman filed a petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has granted Indian Point several exemptions involving fire safety.

He said Monday that compliance is essential for the plant’s emergency systems.

NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan says Indian Point is operating safely, including in terms of fire safety.

He pointed out that a federal judge recently upheld the exemptions.

Also on Monday, Westchester County lawmakers heard scientists say that although the possibility of a large earthquake can’t be dismissed, a tsunami like the one that damaged nuclear plants in Japan is highly unlikely at Indian Point.

South Carolina latest state to challenge new light bulb standards

By Jim Davenport

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina lawmakers are taking a stand in favor of states’ lights.

With incandescent bulbs being phased out under federal law in favor of energy-efficient compact fluorescents, legislators want to exempt South Carolina from the measure, saying Washington has no business telling the state how to light its

closets and countertops.

The proposed state law, called the Incandescent Light Bulb Freedom Act, “allows South Carolina to say to the federal government we are going to exercise our rights,” said Republican state Rep. Bill Sandifer, a co-sponsor.

The federal government is phasing out incandescent lights starting with 100-watt bulbs in 2012. In 2014, manufacturers will stop making 75-, 60- and 40-watt bulbs, too, under the 2007 Bush administration law. But the squiggly, energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs have drawn complaints that they are too expensive, put out a dim, sickly light, contain traces of mercury and take too long to reach full brightness.

As early as Tuesday, the South Carolina House will begin debating a bill that would allow companies to manufacture incandescent bulbs in South Carolina as long as they stamp them “Made in South Carolina” and sell them only within the state. Supporters of the bill say the federal government would have no authority to intervene because its power to regulate business extends only to commerce that crosses state lines.

South Carolina has only one, small manufacturer of incandescent bulbs, but the hope is that others will set up shop here, too, if the law passes.

Arizona lawmakers tried the same thing a year ago, passing a bill that would have declared incandescent light bulbs manufactured entirely within the state exempt from federal regulation. But Republican Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed it. Texas, Georgia and Minnesota have also considered clinging to incandescent bulbs, but none has passed a law. California embraced the new federal regulations a year early.

Feds issue new guidance on drilling rules

The Interior Department on Monday issued new guidelines meant to give operators direction for drilling in the Gulf of Mexico after complaints the original plans were unclear, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

You can read the full five-page memo here.

[Read more](#)

Renewable energy groups urge lawmakers to preserve loan

guarantees

The renewable energy industry is urging House and Senate leaders from both parties not to cut loan guarantees for their sector in talks over a federal budget for the rest of the year, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Health groups press senators to reject two-year ban on EPA greenhouse gas rules

A coalition of public health groups led by the American Lung Association is circulating a letter to senators urging them to oppose an amendment to small-business legislation that would delay for two years the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to regulate greenhouse gases.

[Read more](#)

Markey presses for changes in blowout preventer design

Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., wants the Obama administration to explain how it will address a possible design flaw in the blowout preventers that are supposed to stop leaking oil wells but failed during the BP accident last April, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Koch-backed group to press senators on EPA vote

A conservative group backed by the oil industry's Koch brothers is pressuring Senate lawmakers to vote this week in favor of stripping the Environmental Protection Agency's power to regulate greenhouse gases, The Hill reports.

[Read more](#)

Florida unveils bill to raise utility rates, expand renewables

The Florida Senate unveiled legislation Monday to allow the state's electric companies to raise average customer bills \$1.40 to \$2.60 a month to build solar and biomass energy plants for the next five years but the plan received a chilly reception, the Miami Herald reports.

[Read more](#)

Magistrate: BP engineer's emails must be turned over to plaintiffs in spill case

A federal magistrate ruled Monday that emails exchanged between a key BP engineer and his wife must be turned over to plaintiffs' lawyers who are suing the oil giant over last year's Gulf oil spill, the Houston Chronicle reports.

[Read more](#)

Halliburton says Libya sanctions will hurt bottom line

Halliburton Co. said Monday that turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa, and especially U.S. sanctions imposed on Libya, will cut its first-quarter earnings, The Associated Press reports.

[Read more](#)

New judges take over Chevron case in Ecuador

Three new judges began analyzing evidence Monday in the long-running multibillion dollar lawsuit launched by Ecuadorean indigenous people against Chevron, The Wall Street Journal reports.

[Read more](#)

Exxon project in Iraq exceeds production milestone

Exxon Mobil's subsidiary in Iraq says a project at a large oil field under development in southern Iraq has exceeded a production target, The Associated

Press.

[Read more](#)

Libyan rebels want to sell oil to raise money for weapons

After seizing control of critical oil fields and terminals, Libyan rebels are now trying to sell oil in international markets in an effort to raise hundreds of millions of dollars to buy weapons and supplies, The New York Times reports.

[Read more](#)

Worker killed at Exxon refinery in Singapore

One worker was killed and another critically injured during maintenance work at Exxon Mobil's refinery in Singapore, The Washington Post reports.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

- Mar. 29, Washington: Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., discusses his energy agenda at Alliance to Save Energy Policy Perspectives Breakfast. 8:30 am, 401 9th St., N.W.
- Mar. 29, Washington: Senate Energy and Natural Resources holds a briefing on Fukushima Daiichi reactor failure. DOE's Peter Lyons, NRC's Borchardt, NEI's Pietrangelo, UCS's Lochbaum to speak. 10:00 am, Dirksen 366.
- Mar. 29, Washington: Senate Environment and Public Works hearing, "Oversight Hearing on Disease Clusters and Environmental Health." Erin Brockovich among witnesses. 10:00 am, Dirksen 406.
- Mar. 29, Washington: House Natural Resources Chairman Hastings holds a press conference to introduce American Energy Initiative legislation. 11:30 am, House Visitors Center Studio A.
- Mar. 29, Washington: House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., joins experts to call for enforcement of the law requiring distribution of potassium iodine within 20 miles of nuclear power plants. 2:00 pm, House Triangle.

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From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:38 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

And the Boston Globe's reporting the Mass. Legislature will hold "nuclear safety" hearings on Seabrook and Pilgrim. What, no VY?

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Mon Mar 28 18:30:18 2011
Subject: RE: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

Aint that special

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:30 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

The NYT piece is already #8 on the "top stories" for the mobile device home page.

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

From: Brenner, Eliot
To: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Mon Mar 28 18:11:44 2011
Subject: Tomorrow's news tonight -- read and delete

~~Internal use only -- no distribution outside NRC -- no redistribution~~
~~May include material proprietary to news agencies~~

1: Japan stuff --

NYTIMES ON CORE DAMAGE FREQUENCY -- "OPA attempted to push back, pre-publication, against a NY Times item -- PREPARING FOR THE UNLIKELY" using sorely out-of-date CDF numbers to generate incorrect accident probabilities for a graphic to accompany this article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/science/29threat.html>

Despite the best efforts of OPA and an NRO PRA expert, the article will include the incorrect probabilities, albeit with a disclaimer that the numbers do not reflect the latest understanding of plant behavior.

STATION BLACKOUT / PEACH BOTTOM / SOARCA – OPA HQ has spent close to a week working with an Associated Press reporter working on an article attempting to examine U.S. nuclear power plant capabilities to withstand a station blackout and the potential consequences if they cannot. The reporter was going to reference the outdated NUREG-1150, so OPA brought up SOARCA and had extensive discussions based on publicly available data. The reporter also spoke to Peach Bottom. The article is likely to reference the unmitigated SOARCA scenarios that predict containment failure and release in about 20 hours, but OPA stressed and re-stressed SOARCA's basic preliminary conclusion that B.5.b measures can successfully hold off core damage and/or prevent a release. Publication expected tomorrow.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS – Greenwire wrote a curtain raiser about this week's congressional hearings, starting with tomorrow's appearance by EDO Bill Borchardt. It was carried by the NYTimes' blog: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/03/28/28greenwire-japanese-nuclear-reactors-us-safety-to-take-ce-30444.html>

TMI – A planned demonstration marking the 32nd anniversary of the accident at TMI took place this morning at the plant. Some 30 people took part. The media nearly outnumbered the participants - about 20 reporters, many from Japanese and New York news organizations, attended. The demonstration was peaceful; there were no arrests. The Japanese network NHK is also looking for someone from NRC who responded to the accident for a piece it's planning to air in about two weeks.

VERMONT YANKEE – NHK, the Japanese television network, is in Vermont for the next couple of days working on a story about the "controversial Vermont Yankee license renewal." They'll be interviewing a plant spokesman tomorrow.

INDIAN POINT – The New York attorney general filed a 2.206 petition asking NRC to take enforcement action against the plant for its failure to comply with fire safety regulations. WNYC radio and Platts were among those following up. Also calling was ThompsonReuters, and we told them: The N.Y. Attorney General's petition will be addressed under the NRC's normal procedures. That being said, Indian Point is currently complying with all appropriate NRC fire protection regulations, and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York recently upheld the NRC's exemption process with regard to Indian Point. When the NRC set out its fire protection regulations, they were written very narrowly without regard to the variety of designs and site-specific differences that exist in the U.S. fleet. The NRC fully expected there would be exemption requests, and the NRC has given every request a detailed review to ensure safety will be maintained, prior to making a decision.

Separately, ABC News in NY is working on an Indian Point story. The reporter needed a recap of the long-saga of the sirens.

SPENT FUEL – McClatchy Newspapers had several questions regarding the safety of spent fuel storage. They ran the gamut of the UCS laundry list from last week – dense racking, early transfer to cask, etc. Separately, Milwaukee Public Radio inquired about the amount of spent fuel in Wisconsin. That reporter will be back in touch.

SPENT FUEL POOLS AND PLANT SECURITY – An NSIR branch chief did an interview with the Huffington Post today on security regulations in 73.55, including extension requests, as part of an inquiry started last week.

RADIATION – A student reporter from the Community College of Allegheny County (Pa) newspaper posed several questions about radiation and the potential health concerns to residents of Tokyo or the US West Coast.

PLUTONIUM – A reporter for Voice of America inquired about media reports that plutonium had been detected in several locations near Fukushima and asked, "What does that mean?" We said it means there was probably a radiation leak at the plant, but that we couldn't draw other conclusions just from those news reports.

CALIFORNIA PLANTS – OPA spoke to the Orange County Register reporter about the status of requests by Congressional members to address seismic concerns at both California plants and reviews based on Japan

incident. We explained the NRC's current review following the Japan incident and reinforced the agency's efforts in conducting seismic studies and reviews of both plants.

RADIOACTIVE RAINWATER – Pennsylvania's Governor, Tom Corbett, held a press conference this afternoon to discuss the detection of trace amounts of radioactivity in rainwater in the state. He was quick to point out no harmful health effects are anticipated. The press release issued by the state is attached. The York (Pa.) Daily Record had some questions based on the press conference. We referred the reporter to the EPA and/or the DEP on this after providing some general information about nuclear plant radiation and environmental monitoring. On Sunday, Massachusetts' Public Health Commissioner made a similar announcement about radioactive rainwater there and New Hampshire officials said today they have found radioactivity in snow: <http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110328/NEWS0201/110329556> . We can expect continued interest in this development.

PILGRIM – The Pilgrim Watch group has filed a memorandum with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) panel handling the Pilgrim license renewal proceeding about possible implications for the plant from the Japan reactor events. We were asked for comment by the Old Colony Memorial (of Plymouth, Mass.) and provided details on the NRC's response to the Japan events and work done by the NRC over the years on Mark 1 reactor safety.

SEISMIC RISK – Reporters for the Philadelphia Daily News and the Daily Local News (of West Chester, Pa.) requested more information on our seismic risk study. We filled in the reporter on why we do not agree with MSNBC.COM's recent "ranking" of plants according to seismic risk.

And in other news

SEABROOK – An Unusual Event was declared at this site late this morning after smoke was identified in an RHR vault. The event was of brief duration and involved a power-supply transformer for a service elevator. We were asked about the Unusual Event by the Boston Globe and Foster's Daily Democrat (in N.H.), and can expect other media interest, as well. (ABC called from the Washington Bureau. When we told them there was no overtime for this one, they dropped interest.)

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT – OPA spoke to a reporter writing for the San Antonio Current to address questions he had about plant safety and a past finding involving the emergency generators as well as the plant's corrective actions in response. We shared the recent end of cycle report and explained the NRC's oversight and safety significance determination for past non-cited violations and explained the EDGs protective structure to protect against flooding.

POINT BEACH AND KEWAUNEE – OPA had a lengthy conversation with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about how the agency handles performance problems at nuclear plants – questions generated by Lochbaum's report. We discussed multiple red findings at Point Beach that were resolved about three years ago in the context of the agency's strong response to make sure the issues were properly addressed; current performance at both Point Beach and Kewaunee; and the fact that NRC doesn't compile findings to ensure plant safety. As safety issues come, we make sure licensees resolve them.

QUAD CITIES – A reporter from Moline Dispatch called about a tip from a police station about a 30-year employee at the plant who had been arrested for stealing tractors, boats and other things in the area. While executing the search at his residence, the police found equipment and scaffolding labeled "Exelon." The reporter wanted to know why a thief is allowed to work at a nuclear plant and how he is allowed to walk off with plant equipment. We described to the reporter various programs licensee are required to implement to make sure employee are trustworthy, such as the access authorization program, fitness-for-duty and behavioral observation programs. We told the reporter the NRC inspects these programs to make sure they are properly implemented. As far as the case in question was concerned, though we are aware of the incident, it is the company's responsibility to further review what happened and how to handle the situation with this employee.

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:07 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Jaczko in Japan

done

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:02 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Jaczko in Japan

You got this one?

Sent from an NRC Blackberry
Scott Burnell

(b)(6)

From: Daly, Matthew <MDaly@ap.org>
To: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott
Sent: Mon Mar 28 18:00:41 2011
Subject: Jaczko in Japan

From AP story:

¶ Gregory Jaczko, head of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, arrived in Tokyo on Monday to meet with Japanese officials and discuss the situation.

¶ "The unprecedented challenge before us remains serious, and our best experts remain fully engaged to help Japan," Jaczko was quoted as saying in a U.S. Embassy statement.

So when does he come back? And can we interview when he does? (Or even by phone somewhere en route)

Any details appreciated.

Matthew Daly

Environment/Energy Correspondent

The Associated Press

1100 13th Street NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005

202-641-9541 direct

Bu/1260

(b)(6)

cell

<http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

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[IP_US_DISC]msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

From: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:55 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: flying protocol question

Thanks, (b)(5)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:55 PM
To: Doane, Margaret
Subject: RE: flying protocol question

(b)(5)

From: Doane, Margaret
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:50 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: flying protocol question

No issue with staying back an hour.
Margie

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Doane, Margaret
Subject: flying protocol question

Margie: I am booked on same flight as you outbound, slim chance of upgrading, but world will not end. Coming back, I am booked on same flight as chairman. Upgrade chance is slim, but guaranteed if I take a flight an hour later. You see any problems with staying back an hour?

If not, I will ask Mary Carter to shift the ride back from Frankfurt to the later flight.

Eliot Brenner
Director, Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Md.
O: 301-415-8200
C: (b)(6)

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:21 PM
To: Eli Kintisch
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Spent fuel q's deadline 1pm EST Fri

Good afternoon, Eli;

I'm sorry, but no luck on the names, I haven't heard back from our research staff. Are we already into your edit process, or should I poke the staff one more time?

Scott

From: Eli Kintisch [mailto:ekintisch@aaas.org]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:29 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Spent fuel q's deadline 1pm EST Fri

Any luck with the Sandia names? And the p.manager's name?

Thanks, Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter
Science Magazine
202 326 6446

>>> "Burnell, Scott" <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov> 3/18/2011 2:16 PM >>>

My apologies once again, Eli, it just doesn't seem to slow down...

Don't have any names @ Sandia, I'll keep checking

I'm checking who in our research office would coordinate spent fuel studies

Our Licensee Event Reports (<https://lersearch.inl.gov/Entry.aspx>) would include spent fuel-related events.

Here's Diaz's letter:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/congress-docs/correspondence/2005/domenici-03142005.pdf>

Thanks.

Scott

BU/1262

From: Eli Kintisch [mailto:ekintisch@aaaas.org]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Spent fuel q's deadline 1pm EST Fri

Any luck? Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter
Science Magazine
202 326 6446

>>> "Burnell, Scott" <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov> 3/17/2011 6:19 PM >>>

I'll see what I can track down, thanks.

From: Eli Kintisch [mailto:ekintisch@aaaas.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 6:17 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: Spent fuel q's deadline 1pm EST Fri

Scott:

1. Which researchers at Sandia perform work for NRC in this area?
2. Who is the program manager on this research, and may I speak to them for an interview?
3. Are there any publically available reports on spent fuel pool incidents that are available?
4. I was unable to find Nils Diaz response in 2004 to NAS report on spent fuel pools risk. Could you send?

thanks, e

Eli Kintisch, Reporter
Science Magazine
202 326 6446

>>> "Burnell, Scott" <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov> 3/17/2011 5:49 PM >>>

Hello Eli;

I've most likely missed your deadline anyway, and I apologize – in the future it helps to put a deadline in the subject line to attract attention. In any case, I'm not aware of any publicly available modeling on spent-fuel pool incidents. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thanks.

Scott

From: Eli Kintisch [mailto:ekintisch@aaaas.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: Science mag: Are there publicly available

research studies modeling the loss of coolant from spent nuclear fuel pools that the NRC has done?

Could you send me them or refer me to them?

Deadline: 430pm today; but if we miss that, would still be useful tomorrow.

Thanks, Eli

Eli Kintisch, Reporter
Science Magazine
202 326 6446

Subject: Task force update for OPA
Location: T-6C1

Start: Tue 3/29/2011 1:30 PM
End: Tue 3/29/2011 2:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Required Attendees: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Grobe, Jack; Holahan, Gary; Miller, Charles; Davidson, Cynthia

When: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:30 PM-2:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: T-6C1

Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

BU/1263

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 5:10 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: tnt

SPENT FUEL – McClatchy Newspapers had several questions regarding the safety of spent fuel storage. They ran the gamut of the UCS laundry list from last week – dense racking, early transfer to cask, etc. Separately, Milwaukee Public Radio inquired about the amount of spent fuel in Wisconsin. That reporter will be back in touch.

RADIATION – A student reporter from the Community College of Allegheny County (Pa) newspaper posed several questions about radiation and the potential health concerns to residents of Tokyo or the US West Coast.

PLUTONIUM – A reporter for Voice of America inquired about media reports that plutonium had been detected in several locations near Fukushima and asked, "What does that mean?" We said it means there was probably a radiation leak at the plant, but that we couldn't draw other conclusions just from those news reports.

David McIntyre
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(301) 415-8206 (direct)
(b)(6) (mobile)
Protecting People & the Environment

BV/1264

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: d4awings
Attachments: Document.pdf

PDF of Bechtel equipment drawings.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 10:06 AM
To: 'MMallen@bechtel.com'
Subject: FW: d4awings

Michelle,

Here are the 3 drawings on the equipment that evolved.

Beth Hayden
Senior Advisor
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
--- Protecting People and the Environment
301-415-8202
elizabeth.hayden@nrc.gov

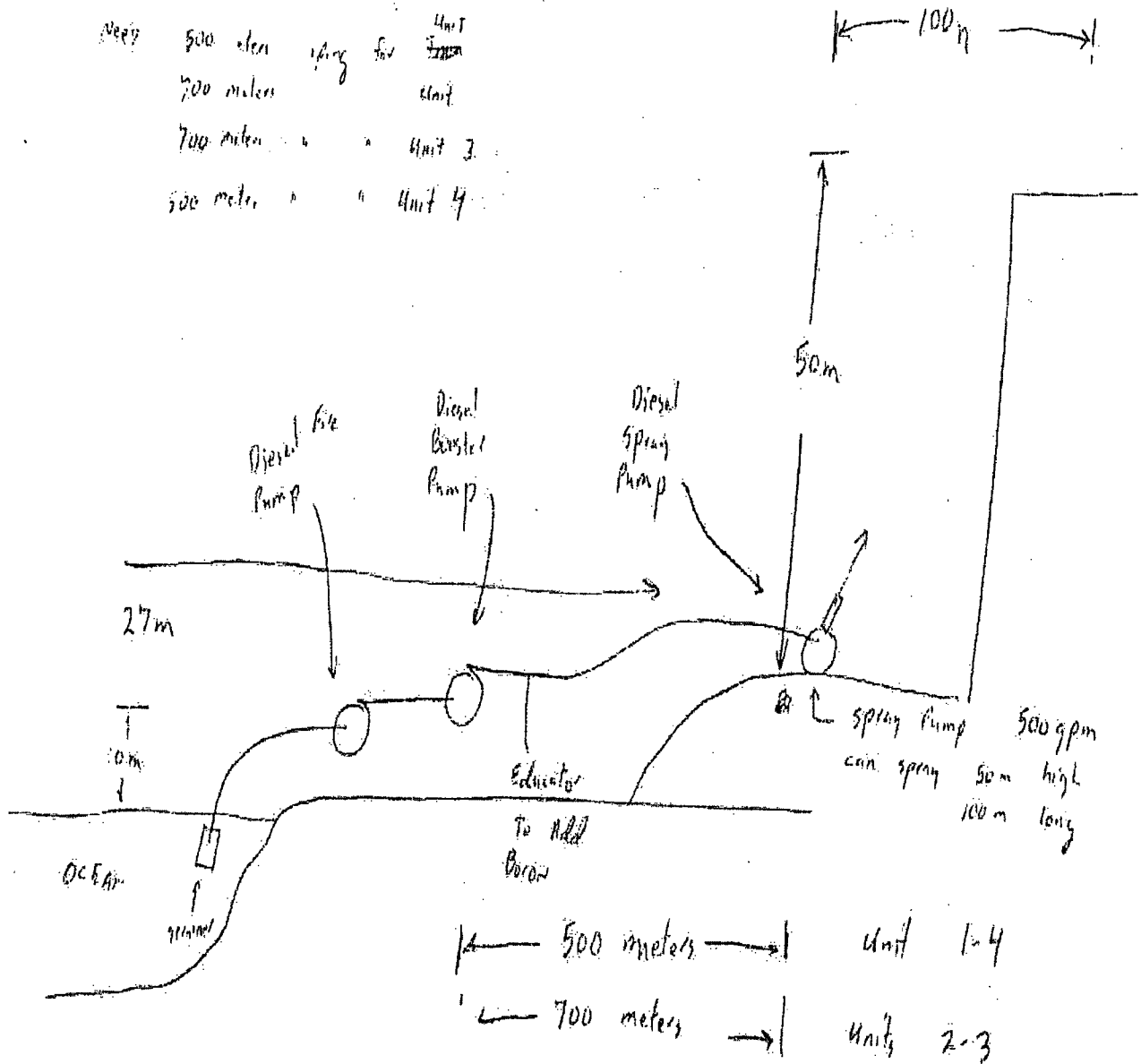
-----Original Message-----

From: ELIZABETH.HAYDEN@NRC.GOV [mailto:ELIZABETH.hayden@nrc.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 8:51 AM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: d4awings

Bv/1265

4 TRAWLS needed example show core

500 meters spray for Unit 1
 700 meters Unit 2
 700 meters Unit 3
 500 meters Unit 4



Also used Diesel Trucks

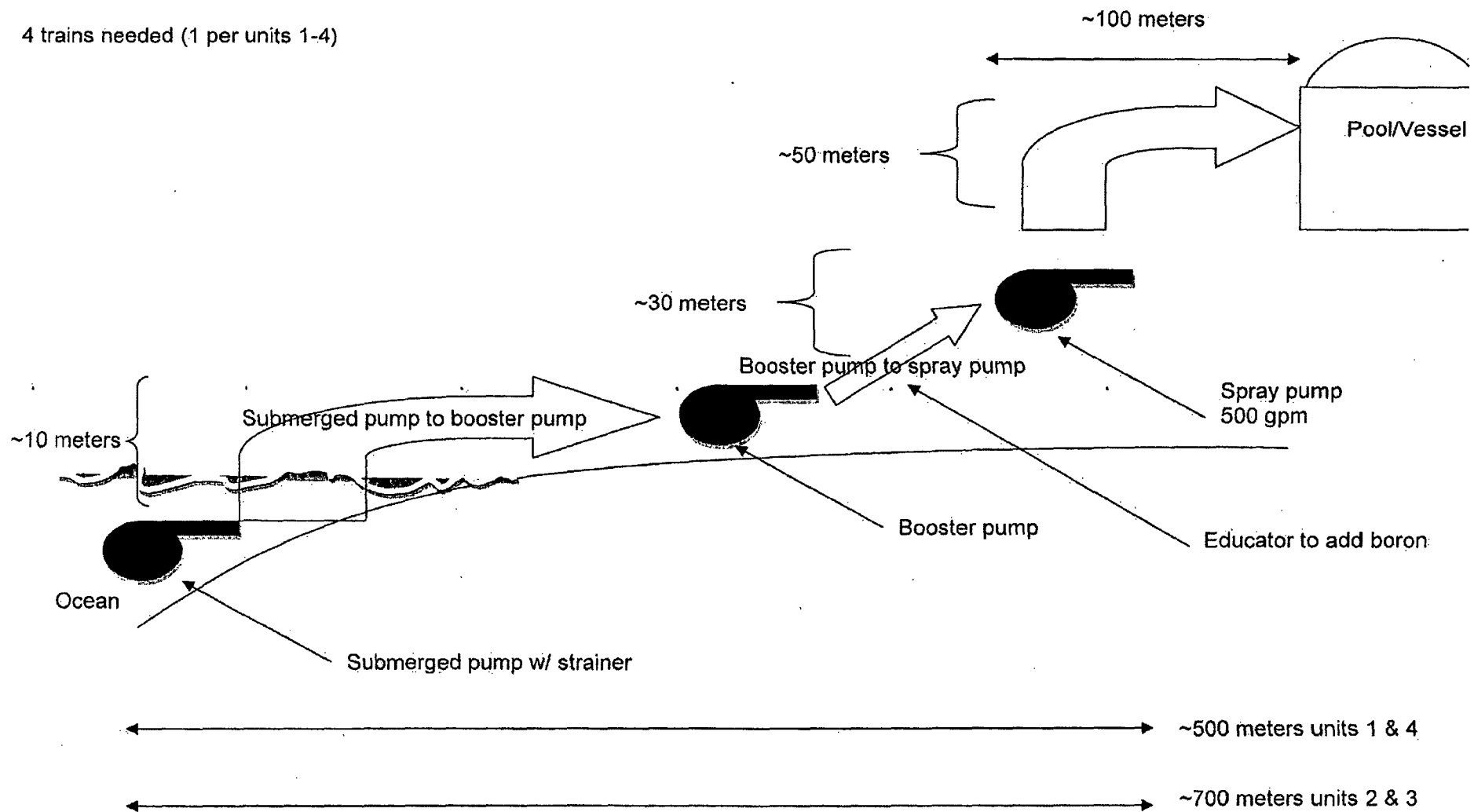
Robots which enter high radiation field

to

the area

(b)(6)

4 trains needed (1 per units 1-4)



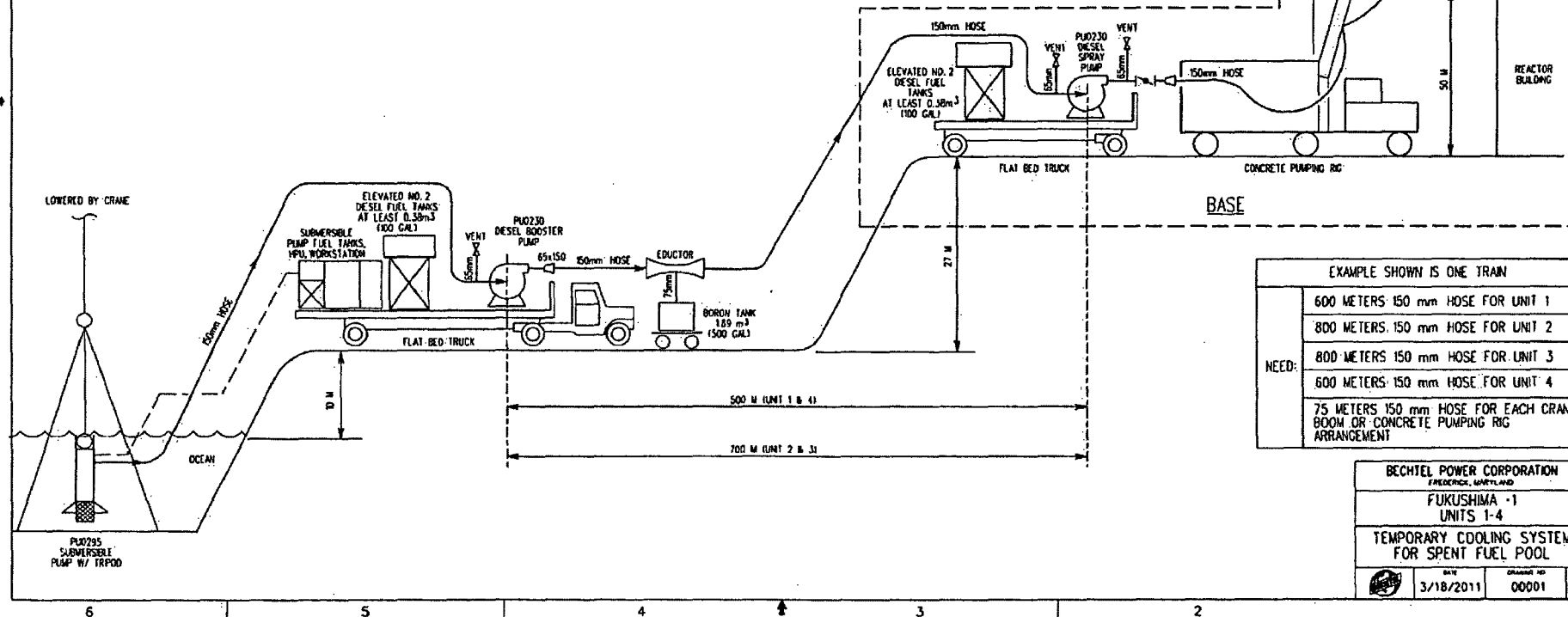
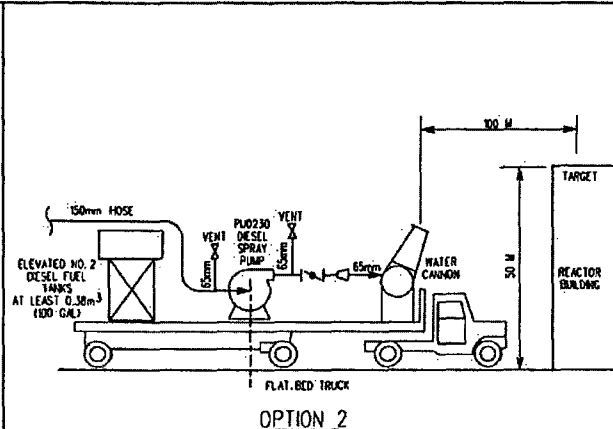
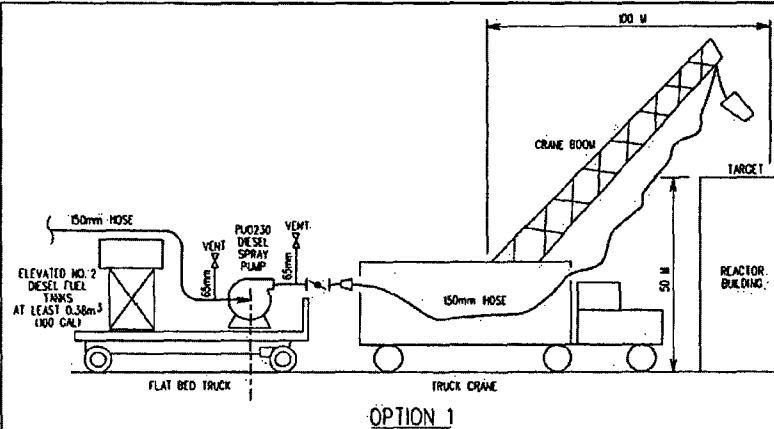
***Notes:**

Also need diesel trucks

Robots to enter high radiation areas

Train 2

- NOTES:
1. 15.24M (50FT) OR 30.48M (100 FT) HOSE LENGTHS WITH QUICK CONNECT FITTINGS.
 2. ON SHORE SUBMERSIBLE PUMP ACCESSORIES INCLUDE HYDRAULIC POWER UNIT (HPU) PWD200A, THREE 180045 FUEL TANKS INTERCONNECTED AND WORKSTATION PWD204.
 3. TWO ELEVATED 180045 FUEL TANKS FOR EACH PWD230 PUMP ENGINE. TUBING TO BE SEALED TO ENGINE SIDE SMALL TANK.



From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:47 PM
To: Power, Stephen
Subject: RE: re TEPCO asks for help from the French

We are currently focused on the ongoing event and providing assistance to the U.S. Embassy and the Japanese government. We look forward to addressing this and the multitude of other FOIAs we have received as time permits.

From: Power, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:40 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: re TEPCO asks for help from the French

Thanks. Also, can you offer a comment responsive to the request from various enviro/health groups seeking additional data underlying the evacuation recommendation?

Fukushima-Related FOIA Request: Full Data Sought on Radiation Levels That Led To NRC Chair's Call for 50-Mile Evacuation Radius for Americans in Japan

PR News Wire via Dow Jones

Why Aren't Japanese and American Citizens Getting All the Facts? "Extreme" Step Seen As Indication of Much Higher Radiation Levels Than Revealed So Far by NRC, Japanese Government

WASHINGTON, March 25, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Three groups -- Friends of the Earth (FOE), the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) -- announced today that they have filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to get to the bottom of what led the U.S. government to call for a 50-mile evacuation radius for Americans near the Japanese reactor crisis in Fukushima.

The FOIA requests filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are available online at <http://foe.org/sites/default/files/FOE-NIRS-PSR-RadiationFOIA-3-22-11.pdf>. The three groups are not satisfied that the incomplete summary provided so far by the DOE at <http://www.energy.gov/news/10194.htm> provides the full picture of the scale of the radiation.

On March 16, 2011, NRC Commissioner Gregory B. Jazcko told Congress that he was recommending the 50-mile evacuation radius. (See <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/commission/comm-gregory-jazcko/0317nrc-transcript-jazcko.pdf>.) The scope of the recommended evacuation is highly unusual and suggestive of extraordinarily high radiation levels in excess of those reported to the public in Japan and the U.S., the three groups said. In the U.S., nuclear reactor licensees and local governments are only asked to provide for evacuation out to 10 miles.

As concerns grow about food and water contamination in Japan, the three groups filing the FOIA request are seeking to determine the answer to this key

BV/1266

question: What made Jaczko exceed the limits of his own agency's regulations by five times?

Tom Clements, Southeastern nuclear campaign coordinator, Friends of the Earth, said: "The radiation monitoring information being collected by the U.S. Government in Japan is of urgent interest to the public in the U.S. and internationally and we expect an expedited response to the FOIA request. If the full data set is not immediately released, the government can rightly be accused of attempting to cover up the radiation threat posed by the disaster. This would severely undermine regulators' credibility."

Michael Mariotte, executive director, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Takoma Park, MD, said: "By recommending a 50-mile evacuation zone for U.S. residents, NRC Chairman Jaczko gave a strong signal that the Fukushima accident was much worse than reported by the Japanese government and the utility. We believe that he was getting information about the severity of the accident from airborne radiation measurements taken by U.S. Department of Energy aircraft. But neither DOE nor the NRC has published those measurements in full."

Attorney Diane Curran of Harmon, Curran, Spielberg & Eisenberg, LLP, who filed the FOIA request for the groups, said: "We think the American and Japanese public have a right to see the complete details of the Fukushima radiation data and, therefore, we have requested the NRC and the DOE to release the information under the Freedom of Information Act. If necessary, we are prepared to go to federal court to get the uncensored set of measurements."

As the FOIA request explains, the three groups "seek expedited release" of the requested information, "so that they may timely inform their members and the general public about the unfolding events at the Fukushima reactors, including the significance of the public health and environmental threat posed by radiation releases from the Fukushima reactors. Requesters believe that requested disclosures will do a great deal to fill currently existing information gaps and resolve inconsistencies in the currently available reports about the severity of the Japanese radiological releases."

The groups also contend that expedited release of the information is justified in order to allow them to participate in and comment on any proceedings the federal government may undertake to evaluate the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, including the 90-day review of the safety of U.S. reactors recently announced by the NRC. According to the FOIA request letter, a better understanding of the severity of the Fukushima releases is "essential to Requesters' ability to evaluate and participate in any such review."

SOURCE Physicians for Social Responsibility; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Friends of the Earth

/CONTACT: Leslie Anderson, +1-703-276-3256, landerson@hastingsgroup.com

(END)

DJPRviaNewsEdge
:SUBJECT: USPO USA
Copyright (c) 2011 PR Newswire
Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 3/25/2011 1:12 PM

From: Brenner, Eliot [mailto:Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:11 PM

To: Power, Stephen
Subject: RE: re TEPCO asks for help from the French

No request of the NRC today, and therefore nothing for NRC to respond to.

From: Power, Stephen [mailto:Stephen.Power@wsj.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:41 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: FW: re TEPCO asks for help from the French

Can you comment on what, if any, additional assistance the Japanese sought from the NRC today, and what the NRC's response was? Thanks.

From:
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:52 PM
To: Power, Stephen
Subject: re TEPCO asks for help from the French

Steve – FYI this from DJN. I wonder if the NRC/US DOE have also received a request for more assistance today – post Jaczko's visit?

Tepco Asks Areva For Support

Dow Jones Newswires

PARIS -- French state-owned nuclear giant Areva SA (CEI.FR) Monday said it has received a request for support from Japanese operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (9501.TO) which has been battling to avoid radiation leaks at its earthquake- and tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi plant for over two weeks. Areva, French utility Electricite de France SA (EDF.FR) and the government's nuclear agency Commissariat de l'Energie Atomique have been contacted by the Japanese operator and are examining different options to help out at Fukushima, a spokeswoman told Dow Jones Newswires. The spokeswoman wasn't able to provide any details.

From: Screnci, Diane
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:32 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly
Subject: TNT

TMI - A pre-planned demonstration marking the 32nd anniversary of the accident at TMI took place this morning at the plant. Some 30 people took part. The media nearly outnumbered the participants - about 20 reporters, many from Japanese and New York news organizations, attended. The demonstration was peaceful; there were no arrests.

NHK is also looking for someone from NRC who responded to the accident for a piece it's planning to air in about two weeks.

Vermont Yankee – NHK, the Japanese television network, is in Vermont for the next couple of days working on a story about the “controversial Vermont Yankee license renewal.” They’ll be interviewing a plant spokesman tomorrow.

Indian Point – The attorney general filed a 2.206 petition asking NRC to take enforcement action against the plant for its failure to comply with fire safety regulations. WNYC radio and Platts were among those following up. Separately, ABC News in NY is working on an Indian Point story. The reporter needed a recap of the long-saga of the sirens.

Diane Screnci
Sr. Public Affairs Officer
USNRC, RI
610/337-5330

BU/1267

From: Glanz, James <glanz@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Glanz, James
Subject: RE: Sunday's article -- Peter Yanev

Scott,

Yanev went over to Fukushima in 1979 after its sensors recorded the first significant earthquake to strike a nuclear plant (at least when so many sensors were in place) for NRC and DOE, an experience that could not be more relevant for the piece, and there was nothing misleading about the attribution. His experience also happens to have been extremely revealing of how the Japanese nuclear establishment deals with unpleasant news. Scott, quite frankly, what surprises me is that you've got time for this sort of nanoscopic-level reading – and calling staff? – when you and NRC could not find the time to help with a piece that goes to the heart of the preparedness of the plant in Japan and has wider implications as well. Your approach just eludes me. I'm quite at a loss, so I'll leave it at that except to say I hope that the next time I call NRC with an information request, you will give more attention to the request before the piece comes out.

Jim Glanz
The New York Times

From: Burnell, Scott [mailto:Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:43 AM
To: Glanz, James
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Sunday's article -- Peter Yanev

Good Morning, Jim;

I saw your piece on the tsunami at Fukushima:
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/27/world/asia/27nuke.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=all

This passage caught my eye:

"They had years to prepare at that point, after Kashiwazaki, and I am seeing the same thing at Fukushima," said Peter Yanev, an expert in seismic risk assessment based in California, who has studied Fukushima for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Department.

I checked with the staff and Yanev's work for us in regards to Fukushima predated the earthquake by years if not decades. Although there isn't any new work at this juncture, the phrasing (particularly the "I am seeing") can be taken to mean there is. Thanks.

Scott Burnell
Public Affairs Officer
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Bu/1268

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:09 PM
To: McIntyre, David
Subject: RE: ANS Technical Brief: MOX Fuel & Fukushima

Yeah, go ahead. But make clear it's not our product, we're just passing it along for his education.

-----Original Message-----

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:31 PM
To: Sheehan, Neil; Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: ANS Technical Brief: MOX Fuel & Fukushima

Should we send this to Steve Mufson of the Post? They keep reporting the MOX is a reason for concern at Unit 3.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehan, Neil
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:07 PM.
To: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly; Burnell, Scott; McIntyre, David
Subject: FW: ANS Technical Brief: MOX Fuel & Fukushima

Speaking of MOX, this is helpful.

-----Original Message-----

From: Nimitz, Ronald
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:57 PM
To: Henderson, Pamela
Cc: Sheehan, Neil; Screnci, Diane
Subject: FW: ANS Technical Brief: MOX Fuel & Fukushima

Since one of the plants have some limited MOX fuel

From attached (On ANS public website)

".... With these facts in mind – the low percentage of MOX fuel in the core and the short operation time for the MOX fuel – it is evident that the presence of MOX fuel at Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 has had no significant impact on the offsite releases of radioactivity following the earthquake and tsunami."

[illegible]

The ANS Special Committee on Nuclear Non-Proliferation has prepared the attached Technical Brief on The Impact of Mixed Oxide Fuel Use on Accident Consequences at Fukushima Daiichi.

For additional Fukushima resources, visit the "Featured Content" box on the front page of the American Nuclear Society's website:

<http://www.ans.org/>




AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY

555 North Kensington Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois
60526-5592 USA

Tel: 708/ 352-6611
E-Mail: NUCLEUS@ans.org
<http://www.ans.org>
Fax: 708/ 352-0499

Date: March 25, 2011

To: Joe Colvin
ANS President

From: Michael (Mikey) Brady Raap 
Chair, ANS Professional Divisions Committee

Below please find the Technical Brief on The Impact of Mixed Oxide Fuel Use on Accident Consequences at Fukushima Daiichi. This Technical Brief contains factual information prepared by the ANS Special Committee on Nuclear Non-Proliferation.

The Impact of Mixed Oxide Fuel Use on Accident Consequences at Fukushima Daiichi

American Nuclear Society Technical Brief – March 2011

Conclusion

Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel has been used safely in nuclear power reactors for decades. The presence of a limited number of MOX fuel assemblies at Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 has not had a significant impact on the ability to cool the reactor or on any radioactive releases from the site due to damage from the earthquake and tsunami.

Summary

At the time of the magnitude 9.0 earthquake, Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 was operating with 32 mixed oxide (MOX) fuel assemblies and 516 low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel assemblies in its reactor core. In other words, less than 6% of the fuel in the Unit 3 core was MOX fuel. There were no other MOX fuel assemblies (new, in operation or used) at the Fukushima Daiichi plant at the time of the accident.

MOX fuel assemblies were loaded into Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 for the first time in the fall of 2010. The MOX fuel had been used for less than five months at the time of the accident. Differences in initial fuel composition between MOX and LEU fuel can lead to differences in consequences (prompt fatalities and latent cancers) following a core damage event with releases to the environment.

There are indications that Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 suffered damage to some of its core. The core damage resulted from a loss of core cooling due to damage to plant systems from the tsunami that followed the earthquake. The damage was not related to the presence of MOX fuel.

There have been no prompt fatalities as a result of radiation exposure from Fukushima Daiichi. Prompt evacuation has minimized radiation exposure to the public, so long-term public health consequences from radiation exposure are expected to be small. Given the small number of MOX fuel assemblies at Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 at the time of the event, coupled with the short time of irradiation of the MOX fuel, it can be concluded that MOX fuel has had and will have no perceptible impact on any consequences from the event.

Background

It is important to note that while LEU fuel begins its useful life with no plutonium, as it is used in a light water reactor it builds up plutonium as a result of the nuclear reactions in the core. By the end of its useful life an LEU fuel assembly contains about 1% plutonium actually generates more power from plutonium than from uranium. All reactor cores contain plutonium; those cores loaded with some MOX fuel contain more.

Mixed oxide (MOX) fuel is comprised of a blend of uranium oxide and plutonium oxide. MOX fuel is predominantly uranium, with average concentrations of plutonium that range from 3-10%. The presence of plutonium produces modest changes in some physical characteristics of the fuel material such as thermal conductivity. However, MOX fuel and low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel are fundamentally similar. Moreover, the physical dimensions and structural material of a MOX fuel assembly are essentially identical to that of a LEU fuel assembly. To the naked eye, a MOX fuel assembly and a LEU fuel assembly are identical.

Nuclear power plants have been generating electricity for use by the public since the 1950s, and over those years the industry has compiled an enviable safety record. Today over 400 reactors worldwide generate substantial amounts of emissions-free electricity. Dozens of those reactors currently generate power using a mixture of conventional LEU fuel assemblies and MOX fuel assemblies in their reactor cores. The majority of the fuel loaded into these reactors is LEU (60-70% or more), while the remainder (30-40% or less) is MOX. The use of MOX fuel allows the re-use of plutonium that was recovered during nuclear fuel recycling operations. The fabrication and use of MOX fuel has been carried out safely and efficiently on an industrial scale since the 1970s. Safety authorities in France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Japan have all approved the use of MOX fuel in light water reactors using the same rigorous standards that are applied for the licensing of LEU fuel.

Safety is the cornerstone of nuclear power plant operations. Nuclear power plant operators perform safety analyses to determine how the plants will respond during various “what if” problem scenarios. Some of those scenarios involve extreme conditions coupled with multiple equipment failures that lead to estimates of damage to the fuel in the reactor core. Scenarios with significant damage to the reactor core are referred to as severe accidents, and such accidents can result in the calculated release of radionuclides to the environment. Severe accident consequences are the adverse public health effects – fatalities and latent cancers – that arise from the offsite release of radionuclides from a damaged reactor core.

When uranium or plutonium atoms split (fission), they release a relatively large amount of energy which is converted into heat and eventually electricity. The smaller atoms left behind after fission are referred to as fission products. In addition, some of the uranium and plutonium atoms in nuclear fuel assemblies absorb neutrons without fissioning, becoming even heavier atoms called actinides. Both fission products and actinides are radioactive, posing a health hazard if they are released to the environment. Using MOX fuel alters somewhat the “source term,” or mix of radionuclides in the core and available for release following a severe accident. The different source term between MOX fuel and LEU fuel leads to different calculated consequences following a postulated severe accident.

In November 1999 the Department of Energy published the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement which documented, among other things, the consequences of four severe accident scenarios at three different reactors using some MOX fuel derived from weapons grade plutonium. Each reactor accident sequence was analyzed with two different reactor core assumptions: a reference case with all LEU fuel, and a second case with a mixed core of approximately 40% MOX fuel and the remainder LEU fuel. For each case the severe accident was assumed to progress in the same manner. Relative to the reference case with all LEU fuel, the offsite consequences to the public with the mixed MOX-LEU core ranged from 4% lower to 22% higher, depending on the reactor studied and the accident sequence. Most cases resulted in consequence increases of 10% or less. The differences between the consequences relate back to differences in the source term. The mixed MOX-LEU core consequences were generally higher because of the presence of more radioactive actinides in the MOX fuel at the time of the postulated accident. However, the differences were modest compared to the uncertainty associated with the consequence calculations for these extremely low probability events.

The type of plutonium used in MOX fuel can also impact severe accident consequences. The aforementioned analysis assumed weapons grade plutonium. If the calculations had been done for MOX fuel containing plutonium from recycled commercial nuclear fuel, as is the practice in Europe and Asia today, the difference between the all uranium cases and the 40% MOX fuel consequences would have been greater than cited above. This is again due primarily to the presence of more radioactive actinides in used “reactor grade” MOX fuel (with plutonium from recycled reactor fuel) than in used weapons grade MOX fuel (with plutonium from retired nuclear weapons).

Turning to the Fukushima Daiichi reactors in Japan, Unit 3 was using some reactor grade MOX fuel at the time of the March 2011 earthquake. Had it been using a 40% MOX fuel core, one could expect an increase in severe accident consequences on the order of 10% for weapons grade MOX. With a 40% reactor grade MOX core, and applying a bounding factor of four increase relative to weapons grade MOX, the overall increase in severe accident consequences would have been on the order of 40% relative to the all LEU fuel case. However, Unit 3 was loaded with only 32 MOX fuel assemblies during refueling operations in the fall of 2010. There are a total of 548 fuel assemblies in the Unit 3 reactor core, so this represents less than 6% of the total fuel in the core. The MOX fuel had been operating in Unit 3 for less than five months; fuel assemblies are typically used for a total of 3-4 years in reactor cores before being replaced by new fuel and discharged to used fuel pools. Therefore, the MOX fuel would have built up relatively few radioactive fission products and actinides at the time of the earthquake and subsequent damage to the reactor core. With these facts in mind – the low percentage of MOX fuel in the core and the short operation time for the MOX fuel – it is evident that the presence of MOX fuel at Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 has had no significant impact on the offsite releases of radioactivity following the earthquake and tsunami.

Other than the 32 MOX fuel assemblies in the Unit 3 reactor core, at the time of the earthquake there were no other MOX fuel assemblies (new or used) at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. The problems encountered at Fukushima Daiichi reactors stem from plant damage due to the tsunami that followed the earthquake, not the use of MOX fuel in Unit 3.

It is also important to put the public health consequences from the event in perspective. There have been no prompt fatalities as a result of radiation exposure. Moreover, prompt evacuation has minimized the exposure of the population to radiation. At this point, the consequences of the event are expected to be small. MOX fuel effects, if any, would be a small change to an already small number.

In conclusion, MOX fuel has been used safely in nuclear power reactors for decades. The presence of a limited number of MOX fuel assemblies at Fukushima Daiichi Unit 3 has not had a significant impact on the ability to cool the reactor or on any radioactive releases from the site due to damage from the earthquake and tsunami.

From: Subbaratnam, Ram
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:57 PM
To: Burnell, Scott; Burton, William; Lee, Samuel; Burrows, Sheryl; Hood, Tanya
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Radlinski, Robert; Eul, Ryan; Lombard, Mark; Ader, Charles
Subject: RE: Today's Federal Register Notice

The two FRNs that appeared in today's Federal Register are final guidance, we would not entertain comments on these anyhow ! Oh yes, for future proposed notices we should take heed .

Ram

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:47 PM
To: Burton, William; Lee, Samuel; Burrows, Sheryl; Hood, Tanya
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Radlinski, Robert; Eul, Ryan; Lombard, Mark; Ader, Charles; Subbaratnam, Ram
Subject: RE: Today's Federal Register Notice

Just to clarify – anything that's obviously just a question OPA can handle, but if it reads as a substantive comment it should be handled through NRO's normal process. Thanks.

From: Burton, William
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:46 PM
To: Lee, Samuel; Burnell, Scott; Burrows, Sheryl; Hood, Tanya
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Radlinski, Robert; Eul, Ryan; Lombard, Mark; Ader, Charles; Subbaratnam, Ram
Subject: RE: Today's Federal Register Notice

OK, we will. Thanks.

Sheryl and Tanya, if we receive any "Japan" questions during the comment period for any ISGs, RGs, or SRPs, please refer them to Scott so we can ensure that we have consistent responses.

Thanx

From: Lee, Samuel
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Burnell, Scott
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Burton, William; Radlinski, Robert; Eul, Ryan; Lombard, Mark; Ader, Charles
Subject: RE: Today's Federal Register Notice

Thanks for the heads up, Scott.
sam

Samuel S. Lee, Chief
Balance of Plant Branch 2
Division of Safety Systems & Risk Assessment
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
301-415-0155
samuel.lee@nrc.gov

BU/1270

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 10:23 AM
To: Lee, Samuel; Burton, William
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Today's Federal Register Notice
Importance: High

Butch, Samuel;

Please be aware the ISG that showed up today on "**Review of Nuclear Power Plant Designs Using a Gas Turbine Driven Standby Emergency Alternating Current Power System**" could very well attract a lot of "is this related to Japan?" questions. Feel free to refer such questions to OPA if necessary, although of course the short answer is, "No, this guidance relates to new reactor applications and was in development long before the recent events in Japan." Thanks.

Scott

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:29 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: TNT on TMI

fyi

-----Original Message-----

From: Sam Walker [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Wellock, Thomas
Cc: McIntyre, David
Subject: RE: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

OK thanks. I sent Alex at NHK an email. FYI, I was interviewed as a part of an NPR "Morning Edition" story on TMI today.

-----Original Message-----

From: Wellock, Thomas [mailto:Thomas.Wellock@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:25 PM
To: Sam Walker
Cc: McIntyre, David
Subject: RE: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

OK Sam. Since their contact information is at the bottom, I think you can just contact them yourself. I'm CCing this to David in OPA in case he has any other concerns.

Tom

-----Original Message-----

From: Sam Walker [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Wellock, Thomas
Subject: RE: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

Hi Tom,

Yes. I'd be glad to talk to them.

Sam

-----Original Message-----

From: Wellock, Thomas [mailto:Thomas.Wellock@nrc.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:26 PM
To: Sam Walker
Subject: FW: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

Sam,

Bu/1271

Do you want to be contacted by them?

Tom

-----Original Message-----

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:23 PM
To: Wellock, Thomas
Subject: FW: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

Tom - this TV producer was interested in reaching Sam Walker, about TMI I think in relation to his book and the anniversary. Do you have Sam's phone number or email address?

Thanks,
Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: Couret, Ivonne
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:56 PM
To: McIntyre, David; Screnci, Diane
Subject: FW: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

I was told you both spoke to this reporter? Closing the inquiry then. Ivonne

-----Original Message-----

From: Janbergs, Holly On Behalf Of OPA Resource
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:05 AM
To: Couret, Ivonne
Subject: FW: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexander Kirst [mailto:kirst@nhkny.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 11:58 AM
To: OPA Resource
Subject: NHK Inquiry [Three Mile Island]

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

Alexander Kirst (kirst@nhkny.com) on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 11:58:21

comments: To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alex Kirst, and I am an Associate Producer at the New York bureau of NHK, Japan's public television station. We are currently producing a program on the aftermath of Three Mile Island, and I would like to request an opportunity for an interview with an NRC representative or NRC member about the accident and the subsequent government response.

If possible, an opportunity to speak with an NRC staff member who was also involved in the management or cleanup efforts would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

Alex Kirst
kirst@nhkny.com

(b)(6)

organization: NHK

address1: 1177 Avenue of the Americas

address2: 33rd Floor

city: New York

state: NY

zip: 10036

country: USA

phone: (b)(6)

From: Screnci, Diane
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:52 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: japan

How come you didn't go to Japan with the Chairman?

Diane Screnci
Sr. Public Affairs Officer
USNRC, RI
610/337-5330

BV/1272

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:46 PM
To: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: Quick discussion on task force?

I'm sure Eliot would like to be there, but if there's a conflict on his schedule (Hill briefings this week) I'll take care of it.

I'll start on the press release.

From: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Quick discussion on task force?

Attached. It's draft, of course and will likely change a bit. I'm working on the cover memo for the charter.

Realistically, it might be Thursday for issuance.

Who should we invite to a meeting? You and Eliot?

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:33 PM
To: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Subject: RE: Quick discussion on task force?

Arrrrgh.

We can do tomorrow afternoon. May I have the draft charter so I can start on the press release? Thanks.

Scott

From: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:30 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Quick discussion on task force?

We could do tomorrow afternoon. The memo will be transmitted by memo signed by the EDO. We might be looking at Wednesday for issuance.

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:43 PM
To: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Subject: RE: Quick discussion on task force?

I won't be in Wednesday, so yes, tomorrow morning would be good, keeping in mind I have the SMR Commission brief and a possible visit by NHK TV. Does the EDO need to accept the charter? (I'm thinking overall timeline for issuing everything.)

BU 11273

From: Sanfilippo, Nathan
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 12:39 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: RE: Quick discussion on task force?

Scott,

We'd like to finalize the charter tomorrow. Do you want to meet prior? Maybe sometime tomorrow late morning?

Thanks,
Nathan

From: Burnell, Scott
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:02 AM
To: Miller, Charles; Grobe, Jack; Holahan, Gary; Sanfilippo, Nathan
Cc: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Quick discussion on task force?

Gentlemen;

I think it'll be very useful to have a quick chat on the public information aspects of the task force – charter, meetings, etc. Would it be acceptable for Nathan to set up a meeting in the next couple of days? Thanks.

Scott

From: Landau, Mindy
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:24 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: RE: NRC logo in plume map

My bogometer was triggered – but then I realized bogosity really is a word! Thanks for illuminating us!

bogosity definition

/boh-go's*-tee/ The degree to which something is "bogus" in the hackish sense of "bad". At CMU, bogosity is measured with a bogometer; in a seminar, when a speaker says something bogus, a listener might raise his hand and say "My bogometer just triggered". More extremely, "You just pinned my bogometer" means you just said or did something so outrageously bogus that it is off the scale, pinning the bogometer needle at the highest possible reading (one might also say "You just redlined my bogometer"). The agreed-upon unit of bogosity is the microLenat. Also, the potential field generated by a bogon flux; see quantum bogodynamics. See also bogon flux, bogon filter.

(2002-04-14)

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:06 PM
To: Watkins, Charles; McIntyre, David
Cc: Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Harrington, Holly; Hayden, Elizabeth; Landau, Mindy; Medina, Veronika; Blount, Tom
Subject: RE: NRC logo in plume map

Charles: David works for OPA.

We succeeded in having this bit of bogosity (new word) removed from several websites in the early days of the crisis when we spotted it, got word out via social media, blogged about it and otherwise knocked it down. We're always happy to keep you guys in the loop.

In terms of reaching out to other elements of the government (outside of the public affairs structure), it's all yours. Glad the Ops Center folks were able to spot yet another use of this thing and notify you.

Eliot

From: Watkins, Charles
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:49 PM
To: McIntyre, David; ET05 Hoc; CS_IRT
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Harrington, Holly; Hayden, Elizabeth; Landau, Mindy; Medina, Veronika; Blount, Tom
Subject: RE: NRC logo in plume map

BU/1274

David, thank you for the notification. In the future, as you just did, please send all erroneous or malicious external web site notifications etc to CS_IRT@nrc.gov or call 301-415-6666.

CISRT will take the lead by contacting US-CERT, OPA, OIG and others who will make contact and take action with the web site owner and associated Internet Service Provider or law enforcement agencies. Only those with official duties and capacity should be contacting the external entities on behalf of the US Government. As a rule, most agency actions are defensive in nature and we leave offensive actions to the proper authorities. Thank you, Charlie

Charles Watkins II, CISSP, EnCE
Cyber Situational Awareness Team
NRC, Computer Security Office
(301) 415-6199 Work Phone

(b)(6) Work Cell

From: McIntyre, David
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:27 PM
To: ET05 Hoc; CS_IRT
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Harrington, Holly; Hayden, Elizabeth; Landau, Mindy; Medina, Veronika; Blount, Tom
Subject: RE: NRC logo in plume map

I've written to their web folks through the website, asking them to take it off.

From: ET05 Hoc
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:18 PM
To: CS_IRT
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Harrington, Holly; Hayden, Elizabeth; Landau, Mindy; McIntyre, David; Medina, Veronika; Blount, Tom
Subject: NRC logo in plume map

Remove attributions to the NRC from the plume map. This map was not provided through any official or known unofficial channels of the NRC.

<http://www.sovereignindependent.com/?s=nrc>

Thanks,

Ops Center

From: Harrington, Holly
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 2:08 PM
To: Abraham, Susan; Bonaccorso, Amy; Campbell, Tison; Crouch, Nicole; Culp, Lisa; Deegan, George; Ellmers, Glenn; English, Kimberly; Francis, Karin; Goldberg, Francine; Groh, Deborah; Howard, Patrick; Janney, Margie; Jasinski, Robert; Landau, Mindy; Mroz (Sahm), Sara; Rakovan, Lance; Reiter, Stuart; Rihm, Roger; Sall, Basia; Schwartzman, Jennifer; Sentz, Brian; Sexton, Kimberly; Shropshire, Alan; Stahl, Eric; Steger (Tucci), Christine; Usilton, William; VandenBerghe, John; Weil, Jenny; Wellock, Thomas; Andrews, Tom; Barkley, Richard; Cain, Chuck; Hay, Michael; Heck, Jared; Tifft, Doug; Woodruff, Gena
Cc: Brenner, Eliot; Burnell, Scott; Couret, Ivonne; Hayden, Elizabeth; McIntyre, David; Chandrathil, Prema; Dricks, Victor; Hannah, Roger; Ledford, Joey; Mitlyng, Viktoria; Screnci, Diane; Sheehan, Neil; Uselding, Lara
Subject: Update on the blog

We just put up the latest blog post "closing out" our laser focus on Japan and signaling a return to "regularly scheduled programming" on the blog. Eliot will continue to blog about Japan as events warrant, but I'm back to using my queue to populate the blog. I've got a healthy backlog of posts, but please keep them coming!

Statistics for the blog are very interesting. We've logged a total of 60,000 views in just under two months. Our highest views in a day was a bit more than 5,500. The events in Japan stirred a lot of interest in the blog. Our week of March 14 had average views per day of 3,219! The week of March 21 we were down, but still above our usual pace. That week we had an average of 788 views per day.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the blog!

Holly Harrington

BV/1275

From: Brenner, Eliot
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Ellmers, Glenn
Subject: RE: Reporter Heads and Leads

You may already have seen this, but it never hurts:

<http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110328-72.html>

From: Ellmers, Glenn
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:50 PM
To: Ash, Darren; Bailey, Kenneth; Baker, Pamela; Barkley, Richard; Bellosi, Susan; Bladey, Cindy; Boyce, Thomas (OIS); Brenner, Eliot; Cohen, Miriam; Coleman, Judy; Corley, Cherrie; Deavers, Ron; Dricks, Victor; Etheridge, Peggy; Goldberg, Francine; Greene, Kathryn; Hayden, Elizabeth; Hays, Myra; Holt, BJ; Humerick, David; Kelley, Corenthis; Landau, Mindy; Loyd, Susan; Mamish, Nader; Muessle, Mary; Olive, Karen; Poole, Brooke; Powell, Amy; Rakovan, Lance; Rihm, Roger; Rothschild, Trip; Schaeffer, James; Schmidt, Rebecca; Schneider, Linda; Sotiropoulos, Dina; Stewart, Sharon; Tracy, Glenn; Trent, Glenn; Walker, Tracy; Williams, Barbara
Subject: Reporter Heads and Leads

In case you haven't heard, I'm taking over the Reporter from Ann, who is retiring.

Attached for your review are the proposed heads and leads for this week's NRC Reporter. As always, your comments and suggestions for additions and deletions are most welcome.

Glenn Ellmers

BV/1276

From: Clayton, Mark <claytonm@csps.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Contact Us / Feedback

thx! mc

On Mon, Mar 28, 2011 at 1:40 PM, Brenner, Eliot <Eliot.Brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

Thanks for checking with me. Suggest you contact EPA since they are the one compiling all the information.

The only name I have over there is: Andy.Adora@epamail.epa.gov ...

And their website has some info up on it: <http://www.epa.gov>

Eliot

From: Clayton, Mark [mailto:claytonm@csps.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:35 PM
To: Brenner, Eliot
Subject: Re: Contact Us / Feedback

Hi Eliot,

I'm writing about elevated radiation levels detected on the east coast - including iodine-131. News reports indicate elevated radiation levels detected in : N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Florida and Massachusetts. Here's my questions:

- In how many states so far has EPA detected elevated radiation consistent with the fukushima plant?
- any elements beside Iodine-131 detected?
- have elevated levels been detected in any milk or other foods that EPA has been testing since the fukushima incident began?

BV/1277

- how much lower or higher than normal, or than safe, are these levels?

thanks for getting back to me with this - 3 p.m. deadline.

Mark

Mark Clayton

Staff Writer

The Christian Science Monitor

617-450-2672

claytonm@csmonitor.com

On Fri, Mar 25, 2011 at 9:13 PM, eliot.brenner@nrc.gov <eliot.brenner@nrc.gov> wrote:

The following information was collected:

Name:

eliot brenner

E-mail address:

eliot.brenner@nrc.gov

Subject:

NRC comment on the IG report

Type or paste your message here:

Mark: How my staff missed your message i do not know. Please include the following in your story as comment from the NRC:

The IG report is focused on a subset of defects; manufacturing defects. Both utilities and NRC inspectors have processes for identifying and reporting manufacturing defects. The fundamental issue identified by the report is administrative and pertains to how these defects are reported. The NRC has a variety of other regulations that effectively encompass reporting all defects, and the NRC continues to conclude plants are operating safely. The NRC will look at the IG report to see if our reporting systems can be further strengthened.

Eliot Brenner

Director, Office of Public Affairs

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

--

Mark Clayton

Staff Writer

The Christian Science Monitor

617-450-2672

claytonm@csmonitor.com

--

Mark Clayton

Staff Writer

The Christian Science Monitor

617-450-2672

claytonm@csmonitor.com

Subject: Staffing Relating to Japan
Location: O16-D2

Start: Mon 3/28/2011 3:30 PM
End: Mon 3/28/2011 4:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer: OPA Resource
Required Attendees: Brenner, Eliot; Hayden, Elizabeth; Harrington, Holly

BU/1278