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FAX MESSAGE

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To help the staff gather data on industry experience with loss of spent fuel pool cooling events, I respectfully call your attention to the following events:

1) May 1992 - SFP cooling is lost for 17 hours at Comanche Peak Unit 1 which was ended only after cooling water from unfinished Unit 2 was provided. (See *Inside NRC* dated August 10, 1992, attached)

2) June 13, 1993 - SFP cooling is lost for ≈13 hours at South Texas Unit 2 with the entire core offloaded into the SFP after MOVs inadverently close during a bus transfer for maintenance work on an inverter. (A 10 CFR 50.9 report may have been submitted on this event)

3) October 5, 1993 - SFP cooling is lost for ≈3 hours at Farley Unit 2 with the entire core offloaded into the SFP after CCW flow to the SFP heat exchangers was improperly isolated for MOV testing. SFP temperature increased over 40°F in the 3 hour period.

The NRC levied a $125,000 fine on the utility for the May 1992 event (an NRC resident inspector discovered the condition).

If you cannot find information on the 1993 events, contact me and I can provide documentation. My documentation was received informally, but I can provide it if no LERs were submitted.

Attachment 3

STAFF HAS PROPOSED FINING TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC CO. $125,000 for alleged violations connected with a 17-hour loss of spent fuel pool cooling in May at Comanche Peak-1 (Nucleonics Week, 21 May, 9).

The spent fuel pool went without cooling unnoticed by control room operators until an NRC resident inspector pointed out discrepancies between control room indicators and log entries. TUEC was forced to connect the unit 1 fuel pool to cooling water from the unfinished unit 2, which had not been evaluated and accepted for use, because both unit 1 cooling trains were inoperable.

NRC Region IV Administrator James L. Milhoan told TUEC officials in a letter announcing the proposed penalty that although there was no immediate safety hazard, the violations were a significant concern because "violations of requirements were found to have occurred in virtually every facet of the circumstances surrounding this event, indicating a breakdown in the control of licensed activities." TUEC has 30 days to appeal.

BRIEFLY...

— NRC extends construction permit for Comanche Peak-2. NRC has granted a three-year construction permit extension for Texas Utilities Electric Co.'s Comanche Peak unit 2 through August 1, 1995. Comanche Peak-2, like unit 1, is a 1,161-MW Westinghouse PWR, currently scheduled to load fuel this fall. It's construction permit would have expired August 1. Staff concluded the extension involved no new hazards to those previously evaluated and therefore no prior public notice was required.

— Senate passes energy bill. Senate passage of comprehensive energy legislation, H.R. 776, in a 93-3 vote July 30 cleared the way for a House-Senate conference committee on the energy blueprints sometime after Congress returns to Washington from its August recess. One-step licensing provisions in the House and Senate bills are identical and will not be an item on the table when conferees meet to iron out differences between the two bills.

Nuclear-related provisions up for discussion, however, include language in the House bill that would allow the federal government to preempt Nevada's authority over environmental permits for studies at the proposed Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bennett Johnston (D-La.) promised Nevada Democratic Sens. Harry Reid and Richard Bryan that he would oppose the Yucca Mountain provision in conference in exchange for their agreement not to filibuster the energy bill (INRC, 27 July, 13).

Elsewhere in the bill, NRC opposes a number of changes the comprehensive energy legislation could mandate, including those for regulating DOE's Uranium Enrichment Enterprise, "below regulatory concern" low-level radioactive waste, and stronger protections for whistle-blowers at nuclear plants (INRC, 13 July, 8). The Senate has appointed 32 negotiators to a conference committee on the bill, while the House is expected to name as many as 80 to 100 conference committee members before it adjourns for the Labor Day recess on August 13.

— NRC tightens guides on repaired fuel. NRC tightened the guidelines for use of computer programs to model the use of repaired fuel assemblies. In Supplement 1 to Generic Letter 90-02, "Alternative Requirements for Fuel Assemblies in the Design Features Section of Technical Specifications," the agency calls for utilities that use fuel assemblies reconstituted, or repaired, after the failure of a fuel rod to use computer programs that have been fully tested for the repaired configuration. The supplement letter especially applies to the use of dummy fuel rods made of stainless steel to replace leaking fuel rods and cases in which the broken fuel rod space is left vacant. Previously, plant operators could use computer programs that been approved for similar fuel rod repairs to predict the performance of new configurations without fully testing them. The tightening of the guidelines is intended to prevent fuel cladding from failing. An NRC staffer said the supplement corrects an oversight "which had fallen through the cracks" in the original generic letter. The supplement was released July 31.

— NRC releases draft accident source terms. The NRC has announced the release of draft Nureg-1465, "Accident Source Terms for Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants." Announcement of the draft's release came in a July 28 Federal Register notice, which said the Nureg provides revised accident source terms to replace those in TID-14844, issued in 1962. When final, the revised source terms will be implemented through a rule change to 10 CFR Part 50 for use in the design and licensing of new light water reactors. NRC said that though the revised source terms are intended to be applied toward future designs, voluntary proposals for their use by current licensees will be considered. Copies of Nureg-1465 may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attn: Distribution and Mail Services Section, P-370, Washington, D.C. 20555. Public comments on the document are due by October 26.