December 13, 1989

For:

The Commissioners

From:

James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject:

WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 8, 1989

A summary of key events is included as a convenience to those Commissioners who may prefer a condensed version of this report.

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*No input this week.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 8, 1989

Palo Verde 1, 2 and 3

On November 29, 1989, NRC was notified by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Phoenix. Arizona, of a request by CBS News, that a reporter from "60 Minutes" be permitted to interview the U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting individuals charged with a conspiracy to sabotage power transmission lines from nuclear power plants, one of which was Palo Verde. These individuals are associated with the environmental extremist organization "Earth First!"

The U.S. Attorney's Office has granted CBS' request. The prosecuting attorney plans to refer all technical related questions and questions related to the Atomic Energy Act to the NRC.

Meeting on Drug Testing Issues

On November 21, 1989, Dr. Sullivan, Secretary, HHS, responded to a Commission request for HHS's position on lowering cutoff levels for marijuana and amphetamines and on adding benzodiazepines and barbiturates to the drug testing protocol. He stated that HHS did not support including the a ditional drugs or lowering the cutoff levels for certain drugs.

The letter stated that these issues would be addressed during an upcoming National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) conference. The NIDA conference, "Consensus Conference on Technical, Scientific, and Procedural Issues of Employee Drug Testing," was held on November 29 - December 1, 1989. The purpose of the conference was to bring representatives of the scientific, business, and medical communities together with government regulators, laboratory personnel, management and labor to identify and discuss issues on employee drug testing. There will be a report of the consensus recommendations of the attendees (320 total) that NIDA is expected to publish in February 1990. The recommendations are for a national drug testing program, not a program to address public safety issues. Several statements were made that where public safety was a concern, more stringent standards should be mandated by the regulatory body.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS)

On December 4, 1989, NMSS and Region II representatives met with NFS representatives in Erwin, Tennessee, to obtain a status report on the decommissioning operations for the the plutonium facilities. The decommissioning operations are on schedule; however, the transfer of transuranic waste (greater than 100 nCi Pu/gm) to the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for storage is not resolved.

In a second meeting on December 4, 1989, NMSS and Region II staff met with State of Tennessee and NFS representatives for the quarterly meeting to review the status of pond decommissioning. The NFS's decommissioning operation is currently on schedule, although some equipment for the waste treatment system will be delivered 30 days behind schedule. NFS plans to begin the decommissioning work in April 1990 and is scheduled to complete the work in 1992. A decommissioning plan for the ponds was submitted to NRC in December 1989 for review and approval.

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

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On November 29, 1989, NRC was notified by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Phoenix, Arizona, of a request by CBS News, that a reporter from "60 Minutes" be permitted to interview the U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting individuals charged with a conspiracy to sabotage power transmission lines from nuclear power plants, one of which was Palo Verde. These individuals are associated with the environmental extremist organization "Earth First!"

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Robinson

The plant is in the fourth month of shutdown because of a number of design problems which were identified by the licensee's Design Bases Documentation Program. The initial problem that caused the shutdown on August 22, 1989 was the inadequacy of the net positive suction head (NPSH) for the auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system pumps. When plant modifications were being performed to correct the inadequate NPSH problem the licensee identified, on October 6, 1989, that a failure, which is required to be assumed during a main steam line break transient, could result in the AFW flow discharge to the faulted steam generator to exceed that assumed in the accident analysis. Modification and testing of the AFW system was extended to cover the main steam line break transient concern. These modifications were being completed when, on November 3, 1989, the licensee identified a potential deficiency with the Patel conduit seals that are used as electrical cable entrance seals in EQ application: Corrective action included testing of all 69 conduit seals and replacement of a number of those seals.

The present problem that is keeping the plant from restart concerns the adequacy of electrical voltage distributions during the sequencing and starting of ESF pump motors. The licensee first identified the problem on November 16, 1989 when it was found that the acceleration times of ESF pump motors could be longer than previously assumed. This could cause an overlapping of motor starting voltage drops during ESF equipment sequencing. This problem is aggravated by low system grid voltage conditions and the timing uncertainties associated with the mechanical timer relays. As a corrective action, the licensee is considering the replacement of all timer relays with solid state devices to increase the accuracy of the timing during sequencing.

The present restart schedule is December 23, 1989. The Region and NRR are closely following the licensee corrective actions.

South Texas Projects, Units 1 and 2

On December 1, 1989, the staff issued a subpoena to Mr. John Corder of Brazoria, Texas, directing him to provide testimony about his concerns relating to potential safety issues at South Texas.

Mr. Corder contacted the staff following receipt of a letter from his previous employer, Bechtel, regarding the settlement agreement between Mr. Corder and Bechtel. Although it appeared that there was no restrictive language in the settlement agreement, Bechtel sent a letter to Mr. Corder informing him that he could freely communicate with the NRC concerning potential safety issues. By letter dated September 28, 1989, Mr. Corder informed the staff through his attorney, Billie Pirner Garde, that he has concerns that he believes have not been evaluated by the NRC.

Mr. Corder will testify before the staff beginning at 9:00 a.m. on December 19, 1989, at the Hilton Hotel in Lake Jackson, Texas.

Three Mile Island Unit 2

On November 30, 1989, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Environment Hearing Board denied a petition for supersedeas which, if granted, would have prevented operation of the accident generated water (AGW) evaporation during the ongoing state environmental hearing. The petition was filed by a consortium of four local intervenor groups opposed to evaporation of the AGW.

The evaporator has begun a testing program using a surrogate solution. Modifications to improve the operation of the pellet mill are presently being made. Surrogate testing will resume next week with actual operation, using the AGW, scheduled to begin around mid-January 1990.

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Meeting with NUMARC

On December 5, 1989, a public meeting was held with NUMARC to discuss the status of their Design Bases Documentation (DBD) working group. NUMARC presented their DBD objectives, an outline of working definitions associated with DBD efforts and a draft guideline regarding handling of technical concerns identified during DBD efforts, specifically how to address operability determination and reportability review. NUMARC invited NRC participation at their next DBD working group meeting on January 16, 1990.

NTOL AND RESTART SCHEDULE 12/08/89

I. Schedule for NTOL plants:

PLANT	LOW POWER AUTHORZTN	INITIAL CRITI- CALITY	COMMISSION BRIEFING	FULL POWER AUTHORZTN
COMANCHE PEAK 1	1/90E	1/90E	2/90E	3/90E
SEABROOK	5/26/890	6/13/89C	1/90E	1/90E

II. Schedule for RESTART plants:

PLANT	SHUTDOWN	COMMISSION STATUS BRIEFING	NRC RESTART DECISION	PLANT RESTART
BROWNS FERRY 2	9/15/84C	4/90E	5/90E	5/90E
NINE MILE POINT 1	12/19/870	2/90E	2/90E	2/90E

INDUSTRIAL AND MEDICAL NUCLEAR SAFETY

Fuel Cycle Safety

Combustion Engineering (CE) - Hematite

On May 1, 1989, CE applied for an amendment to Materials License No. SNM-33 to authorize operation of the use of new pellet production lines with low-enriched uranium. Subsequently, a hearing was requested and granted on the application. The contentions raised on this issue have since been resolved, and the hearing was terminated on October 27, 1989. On November 24, 1989, CE was issued an amendment to Materials License No. SNM-33 which authorized the use of low-enriched uranium in a new pellet production system. CE expects to start operations in mid-December.

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Materials Safety

Meeting with Mr. Kurt Sköld, Director of Research at Studsvik Energiteknik, Sweden, Regarding Importation of Neutron-Irradiated Gemstones from Sweden

On November 30, 1989, IMAB Staff met with Mr. Kurt Sköld, Director of Research at Studsvik Energiteknik (a Swedish government-owned nuclear engineering institute) to discuss Studsvik's future plans for counting and importing neutron-irradiated topaz into the U.S.

In addition to international reactor fuels research and testing, Studsvik irradiates, counts and distributes topaz at their facility in Nyköping, Sweden for a gemstone wholesaler. The topaz are released in accordance with the regulations of the National Radiation Authority in Sweden which permit distribution of neutron-irradiated gemstones to persons exempt from licensing provided that the doses to personnel working around or

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with irradiated topaz are not measurably different from routine reactor operations. The concentration limits of topaz released from their facility appear to be equivalent to the exempt concentration levels in 10 CFR Part 30.70. Because all neutron-irradiated topaz would be individually counted and tested in their laboratory in Sweden, it is proposed that Alnor Instruments in Chicago, Illinois (which is owned and operated by Studsvik) would perform quality assurance testing on approximately 10 percent to 25 percent of topaz that they would import.

Mr. Skold indicated that Studsvik was extremely interested in starting this program and would submit an application shortly. Another meeting has been tentatively scheduled for the end of December 1989 to discuss detailed technical requirements of their import application.

SAFEGUARDS

International

Physical Protection Bilateral Program

The United States Physical Protection Review Team (Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Defense) met in Ottawa, Canada during the week of November 27, 1989 with representatives of the Atomic Energy Control Board, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police for a technical information exchange on physical protection techniques and practices. The team also met with representatives of the Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited during visits to Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory, Ontario and Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment, Pinawa, Manitoba and representatives of Ontario Hydro during a visit to Bruce Generating Station, Port Elgin, Ontario.

Domestic

Centralization of Material Control and Accounting Activities in Headquarters

On February 15, 1989, NRC published a final rule centralizing in Headquarters material control and accounting (MC&A) activities for non-reactor facilities from Regions I, III, and V. Centralization of Region II's MC&A activities was to take place through attrition or over a period of two years, which ever came first. Region IV had no affected facilities. Region II has requested NMSS to proceed with the final phase of this centralization and transfer the MC&A activities currently in Region II to Headquarters by January 31, 1990 instead of waiting for the two year period to expire. NMSS has agreed to the transfer and has initiated a rule change to complete this action.

Transportation

Approval of the Model NAC-LWT Shipping Cask

On December 6, 1989, the Transportation Branch issued Certificate of Compliance %0. 9225 for the Model NAC-LWT shipping cask. The cask was designed by Nuclear Assurance Corporation. The cask is a stainless steel, lead-shielded cask with aluminum honeycomb impact limiters. The cask is designed to ship one pressurized water reactor assembly, two boiling water reactor assemblies, or up to 15 metallic fuel rods. The cask weighs approximately 52,000 pounds when loaded with maximum contents of 4,000 pounds.

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Department of Energy (DOE) Report on Reassessment of Civilian High-Level Waste (HLW) Program

On November 29, 1989, DOE transmitted to the NRC for review and comment its "Report to Congress on Reassessment of the Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Program". The House Appropriations Committee Report accompanying the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act, 1990, directed DOE to prepare a report describing in detail how the Department plans to respond to the Committee's concerns regarding schedules, program management, and contractor integration with respect to implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended. The staff is presently reviewing the report and evaluating its impact on the HLW program area, and will provide comments to the Commission by January 8, 1990 for response to DOE by January 15, 1990.

Technical Exchanges

On November 28-29, 1989, an NRC-DOE Technical Exchange on tectonics took place in Denver, Colorado. This Exchange, the third in a series of NRC-DOE interactions on tectonic models and their relationship to characterization of the Yucca Mountain, Nevada site, focused on how DOE plans to utilize data from its field studies, particularly those related to faulting, to evaluate alternative conceptual models. Major themes during the Exchange included the recognition of the need for integration of results of the various studies and of the need to evaluate alternative conceptual models in terms of how the various models could affect performance assessments of the site. The State of Nevada participated in these discussions.

LOW-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT

EPA Proposed Rule on Hazardous Wastes

On November 22, 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule (54FR48372) to prohibit the land disposal of certain hazardous wastes. With regard to mixed wastes, EPA is proposing to grant a two-year national capacity variance. The basis for the two-year variance is EPA's determination that treatment capacity for mixed wastes is inadequate.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

Diagnostic Evaluation and Incident Investigation Branch (DEIIB)

On December 6, the ANO DET report was transmitted to the EDO for information and appropriate action. The team's report discusses the major licensee performance strengths and weaknesses and includes the team's findings, conclusions, and root causes. Recommendations for NRC staff actions resulting from the diagnostic evaluation at ANO were also forwarded to the EDO for appropriate action.

Incident Investigation Branch (IRB)

During the week of December 4-8, IRB hosted a working session of the Federal Response Subcommittee of the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) to revise the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) in light of experience gained since the original document was produced in 1985. The subcommittee developed a draft revision of the FRERP to reflect lessons learned, principally from the Federal field exercises and the Chernobyl experience.

Technical Training Center (TTC)

The TTC Director is in the Soviet Union for meetings of the Joint Coordinating Committee for Civilian Nuclear Reactor Safety (JCCCNRS) Work Group 9. Meetings in Moscow and a side trip to a Soviet VVER/1000 are planned. USSR personnel will make presentations on the diagnostic systems of nuclear power plant equipment lifetime under cyclic loads; monitoring and diagnostic systems of nuclear power plant operating modes; expert systems to monitor, simulate, and ensure safety operation of the plant; and integrity monitoring systems for primary piping. U.S. personnel will make presentations on medical requirements, training, and licensing of nuclear plant operators; procedura support for nuclear plant operators during emergencies; information support systems for nuclear plant operations; and simulator evolution, certification and trends, types of simulators, and simulator use in the USA. The trip is scheduled for December 1-12. The Work Group is scheduled to reconvene in the USA guring May 1990.

Preliminary Notification

The following Preliminary Notifications were issued during the past week.

- a. PNO-I-89-87, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (Salem Unit 1), Controlled Plant Shutdown.
- b. PNO-I-89-96, Lufthansa German Air ine, Logan International, Damaged Shipment of Iodine-125.
- c. PNO-II-89-78, Alabama Power Company, (Farley), Bomb Threat.

- d. PNO-III-89-78A, Commonwealth Edison Co. (Braidwood Unit 1), RHk Relief Valve Opens and Fails to Cluse - (Update).
- e. PNO-89-79, Omni-Source Corporation (non-licensee), Unidentified Radioactive Material Found.
- f. PNO-IV-89-66A, Houston Lighting & Power Company (South Texas Project, Unit 2, Damage to Emergency Diesel No. 22 During a 24-Hour Load Test (Update).
- g. PNO-V-89-70, Castle Medical Center, Earthquake in Kailua, Hawaii.
- h. PNO-V-89-68, Southern California Edison (SONGS Units 2/3), Hydrogen Fire in Radwaste Building.
- i. PNU-V-89-69, Kuakini Medical Center, (honolulu, Hawaii) Therapeutic Radiopharmaceutical Misadministration.

State, Local and Indian Tribe Programs

Alabama Official Briefs NRC Staff

On December 4, 1989, Aubrey Godwin, Director of the Radiological Health Branch of the Alabama Department of Public Health, briefed the NRC staff at the monthly NMSS events briefing on a recent event involving a ruptured well logging source in Alabama. Mr. Godwin identified liability for the drilling and responsibility for the cost of retrieval of the source as key issues. SLITP intends to identify opportunities for additional Agreement State representatives to attend future events briefings to discuss events in their States.

CRCPD and Industrial Radiography Meetings

Joel Lubenau, SLITP, attended a meeting of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) H-6 Committee on Training on December 4-5, 1989 in Austin, Texas. The Committee is exploring a televideoconference on medical matters with the Food and Drug Administration. Mr. Lubenau also attended a meeting on December 6, 1989 in Austin in which a representative of the American Society of Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) visited the Texas radiation control program to gain insight into Texas' radiography testing program. Dennis Serig, NMSS, was also present to examine the human factors aspects of industrial radiography safety.

Georgia Official Meets with NRC and DOE Staff on RSI

James Setser, Chief, Program Coordination Branch, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Chairman of the RSI Incident Evaluation Task Force, met with NRC and DOE staff on December 6, 1989 at NRC Headquarters. Mr. Setser gave a brief summary of the leaking cesium 137 capsules at the RSI irradiator facility in Dekalb, Georgia and expressed Georgia's concerns about the lack of progress in source removal. Only 93 of the original 252 cesium capsules have been removed and transported to a DOE facility in Hanford, Washington. The State of Georgia and NRC have been concerned by the lack of progress by RSI in repairing nine RSI casks that were found to leak. This delay has necessitated exploring other options which would allow resumption of shipping the capsules. NRC and DOE representatives agreed to take certain actions to help facilitate the situation, including facilitating the review of the DOE BUSS cask for NRC certification and reviewing the status of the RSI cask repair effort. Mr. Satser indicated that he was pleased with the anticipated actions by NRC and DOE to address the State's concerns.

Northwest LLW Compact Commission Meeting

Dean Kunihiro, Region V State Liaison Officer, attended the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Committee meeting on December 6, 1989 in Bozeman, Montana. The Committee discussed issues related to the decommissioning of the Pathfinder nuclear reactor; received an update on

the 1990 Governors' certifications milestone; and received a report by party States on any proposed 1990 legislation related to LLW. The representative from Oregon objected to the disposal of Pathfinder LLW at Hanford, Washington. The Oregon representative stated that the Pathfinder LLW should be sent to the disposal facility of the Southwestern LLW Compact since South Dakota is a member of that Compact. Compact officials questioned DOE's continued insistence that NRC will render a decision on the adequacy of the Governors' certifications. The Committee also discussed progress toward a regional mixed waste management solution and fixed waste certification.

International Programs

On November 28-29, the Departments of State and Energy, ACDA, and NRC met for informal talks with Canadian Government officials to discuss tritium export controls and USG assurances for Canadian tritium exports to the U.S. As requested by the Canadian authorities, NRC staff is preparing a summary of 10 CFR Part 30, "Rules of General Applicability to Domestic Licensing of Byproduct Material."

In December 4, Mr. Takao Ishiwatrai, President of the Japan Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation (PNC), accompanied by Mr. S. Kikuchi, Mr. H. Nakano, and Mr. T. Yagi, PNC, had separate meetings with Chairman Carr and Commissioner Rogers to introduce himself to the Commission and discuss PNC's current efforts in the development of an air shipment container for plutonium. Mr. Robert Burnett, NMSS/SG, Mr. James Shea, and Mr. Kevin Burke, GPA/IP also sat in on these discussions.

On Dicember 6, Mr. C. Breskovic gave lectures at the orientation course for new US personnel about to take up employment with the IAEA. The course is sponsored by the US support program and took place at the Holizay Inn hotel in Rosslyn, Virginia. Mr. Breskovic presented lectures on the implementation of IAEA safeguards and on the history, economics and politics of Austria, where the IAEA is located.

Office of Administration Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

Significant FOIA Requests Received by the NRC for 5 Day Period December 1 - 7, 1989

Request for a list of scheduled outages planned for 1990 at all nuclear power plants. (Emmett Everett, FOIA-89-518)

Request for a copy of the Radiation Safety Manual of Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. (Robert Burgin, Nuclear Energy Services, FOIA-89-519)

Request for a list or copies of records that identify licensees authorized by AEC to use, sell, distribute, mine or produce thorium in 1966 and 1967. (Diana Moro-Bishop of Gallagher, Wheeler, Reilly and Lachat, FOIA-89-520)

Request for copies of the application and license for AFFTREX Limited, Pennsylvania. (Alfred Richard, INS Corporation, FOIA-89-521)

Request for a copy of the bidders list for solicitation No. RF-IRM-90-178. (Frank Araby, CompuCom Systems, FOIA-89-524)

Office of Information Resources Management Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

1. Agency Training System (ATS)

The Office of Personnel granted Region IV access to the Agency Training System last week. The response was so favorable that OP requested that the system be made available to all the other regions immediately. Access will be provided as soon as NIH processes our request for the necessary user ID's.

2. Federal Telecommunication System (FTS) 2000

The Public Document Room transitioned successfully to FTS 2000 on December 4, 1989.

3. Policy Statement, "Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants"

The "Policy Statement" on Maintenance of Nuclear Power Reactors will include a statement, as agreed upon by IRM and OGC, that informs the licensees that voluntary information collection is being solicited and that the "Policy Statement" will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

4. Computer Security Day

On November 30, the NRC marked the second observance of Computer Security Day with a program that included the presentation of computer security awareness videos in the Phillips Building Lobby, 11th floor conference room, and on the White Flint TV, Channel 47, in the elevator lobbies. Staff were also available in both Phillips and White Flint to distribute awareness materials and answer questions. The Technical Training Center in Chattanooga called several days before, as a response to the yellow announcement, and requested copies of the handouts and the loan of a video.

Office of Personnel Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

Industrial Safety and Health Training

Banks Mitchum, Agency Safety and Health Manager monitored a pilot course for materials inspectors presented in Region III from December 4-8, 1989. Participants from Headquarters and Regions I, II, III, and IV attended the industrial safety and health training to enable them to recognize non-nuclear hazards at materials licensee facilities.

Arrivals

Charles Interrante, Metallurgical Engineer (PFT), NMSS Connie Kendrick, Secretary (Typing) (PFT), NMSS Angela Lowery, Secretary (Typing) (PFT), NRR Lilia Knight, Cashier (PFT), OC David Chawaga, Radiation Specialist (PFT), RI Brenda Whitacre, Reactor Engr/Insp Prog Coord (PFT), RI

Departures

None

Office of Enforcement Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

Significant Enforcement Action

A Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$50,000 was issued on December 1, 1989 to Florida Power Corporation (Crystal River). The action was based on the licensee's failure to assure that items procured and installed in safety-related systems were suitable for such applications and met appropriate standards of quality. The escalation and mitigation factors of the Enforcement Policy were considered and mitigation for the licensee's corrective actions was offset by escalation of multiple examples. (EN 89-109)

Civil Penalty Paid

St. Clares Riverside Medical Center, Denville, New Jersey paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$625. The action was based on violations involving the failure to: train individuals working in a restricted area, limit radiation levels in unrestricted areas, evaluate radiation survey results, follow procedures to prevent contamination in iodine-131 therapy rooms, and the failure of radiation safety committee to perform annual review of entire radiation safety program. (EA 89-170)

Region I Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

1. Safety Light Corporation/USR Industries

On November 22, 1989, the ASLB issued an Order affirming and extending its earlier temporary stay of the immediate effectiveness of the staff's August 21, 1989 Order issued to Safety Light and USR. USR had requested the stay as part of its challenge of the August 21 Order. The effect of the ASLB Order is to grant to the parties a delay in establishing and funding a \$1 million trust that would be used to characterize the extent of contamination on the Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania site currently operated by Safety Light and previously owned and operated by USR and/or its predecessor corporations. The stay will remain in effect until the ASLB rules on USR's request that it decide whether the NRC has jurisdiction over USR. At a prehearing conference on November 29, the ASLB clarified its intent that the stay of immediate effectiveness also applies to the March 16, 1989 Order issued by the staff to the same parties requiring, among other things, development and implementation of a site characterization plan. Briefs on the jurisdictional issue are scheduled to be submitted to the ASLB by the staff and USR by, respectively, December 15, 1989 and January 2, 1990.

2. Salem

On November 29, three Region I inspectors were sent to Salem 1 to review the circumstances surrounding testing of a turbine valve conducted by the licensee on November 9, 1989. During the test, one of the power range detector channels was declared inoperable; however, the associated bistables were not tripped within the required 1 hour period and technical specification 3.0.3 was entered. The operators restored normal generating plant parameters rather than initiating a plant shutdown. The inspectors are reviewing the sequence of events to determine the safety significance and if the technical specifications and plant procedures were properly adhered to. The licensee reported this event to the NRC on November 30.

3. Region I Office

The Region I Resident Inspector Counterpart Meeting is being held this week at the Hilton Hotel. Commissioner Curtiss addressed the meeting on Thursday, December 7, 1989.

4. Oyster Creek

At 1:55 a.m., on December 7, 1989, while operating at 100% power, a main condenser backwashing evolution being conducted on an isolated hotwell caused a reduction in vacuum in the hotwell. The indicated vacuum dropped below that at which a reactor trip signal should have been generated. The operators reduced power to 85%, restored vacuum, and returned power to 100%.

The pressure detector which provides indications to the main control room is separate from the pressure detector which provides trip signals to the reactor and turbine generator. The licensee has verified that the main control room detector is indicating properly and believes that pressure at the detector which provides the trip signals never reached the scram setpoint due to thermohydraulic considerations. The licensee continues its analysis to confirm this conclusion, and has placed the plant in cold shutdown to substantiate the conclusion.

A Preliminary Notification, PNO-I-89-97, was issued on December 7, 1989. An Augmented Inspection Team arrived at the site on December 8, 1989.

5. Pilgrim

The plant continues to operate at 94% power; the licensee is limiting the plant to this power while attempting to troubleshoot a lockup of one recirculation pump motor-generator speed control scoop tube.

Commissioner Curtiss toured the site on December 6, accompanied by the Regional Administrator.

On November 30, four operators obtained State plant operator licenses; these were the first successful State exams by Pilgrim employees in over a year. Within the next few weeks, about eight personnel will undergo State exams for supervisory licenses.

6. Seabrook - Valves Installed Without Conduit Seals

During inspection 89-17 at the Seabrook plant the NRC identified that 111 valves were installed without conduit seals. This condition voided the environmental qualification of these valves.

In a subsequent meeting, New Hampshire Yankee committed to the following:

- NHY will install conduit seals on 30 of the 111 solenoid valves involved to assure environmental qualification. These conduit seals will be installed by mid January, 1990, and prior to startup.
- The remaining 81 solenoid valves are qualifiable. The required analysis to demonstrate the environmental qualification of the remaining valves will be established by 1/31/90.

Region II Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

1. Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.

On December 4, a meeting was held at the Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., facility in Erwin, Tennessee, to review the status of the program to decommission the settling ponds and plutonium facilities. Region II, ONMSS, and State of Tennessee representatives attended this meeting. The licensee plans to begin work on pond cleanup this spring.

2. Medical Use Workshop Conducted

On December 5, an NRC Medical Use Workshop was held in Richmond, Virginia. This workshop had been arranged specifically for Hospital Administrators, Physicians, Radiation Safety Officers, Department Managers and Technologists of licensees using radioactive material for medical purposes in Virginia. There were 166 attendees, including over 20 representatives from the U.S. Navy's Master License Program. Critiques provided by attendees indicated the program was well received.

3. System Energy Resources, Inc.

On December 6, Chairman Carr, accompanied by the Deputy Regional Administrator, toured the System Energy Resources' Grand Gulf facility.

4. Carolina Power & Light Company

On December 6, Commissioner Rogers, accompanied by E. Merschoff, toured the Carolina Power and Light Company's H. B. Robinson facility.

5. South Carolina Electric & Gas Company

On December 7, Commissioner Rogers, accompanied by E. Merschoff, toured the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's V. C. Summer facility.

6. Region II Resident Inspectors' Meeting

On December 5 - 8, a meeting of the Region II Resident Inspectors was conducted. Guest speakers included James Sniezek, Deputy Director, NRR; and Willian Kerr, Director, OSDBU/CR. In addition, representatives of Florida Power Corporation participated regarding their Technical Specifications Improvement Program, and representatives from NUMARC, Westinghouse, and Union Electric participated in a panel discussion regarding 50.59

7. Radiation Sterilizer's Inc. (RSI) Status Meeting

On December 7, representatives RSI, the State of Georgia, DOE, NMSS, Region II and Region III met to discuss the status of the RSI cleanup

activities. This was the sixth such status meeting. Shipment of capsules from the Decatur, Georgia facility is scheduled to resume this week on a limited basis with an increase in the shipping frequency as additional casks become available.

Region III Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Training

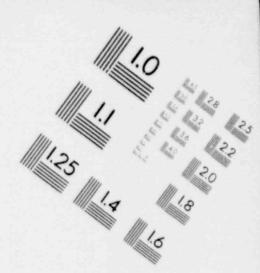
The Region hosted a five day OSHA Hazardous Material Training Course in the Regional office. This course was specifically tailored to meet NRC needs and satisfy the commitments made to the Commission in conjunction with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OSHA and NRC regarding training of non-radiological work hazards.

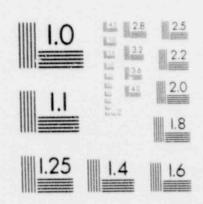
2. Service Water Systems Workshop

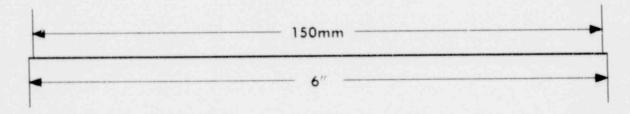
On December 5, 1989, NRR representatives conducted a workshop with Region III licensees to discuss the purpose of Generic Letter 89-13 on Service Water Systems and to discuss questions and answers relating to the recommended action in the Generic Letter. Mr. R. W. Cooper, Chief, Engineering Branch, Division of Reactor Safety, and members of his staff participated in this workshop. NRR intends to issue the questions and answers generated from this and other Regional workshops as a supplement to the Generic Letter.

3. Braidwood Nuclear Power Station

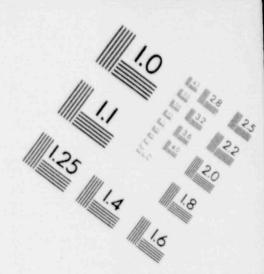
Region III chartered an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) on December 1. 1989, to investigate an event on Unit 1 when approximately 68,000 gallons of water was discharged to the recycle hold up tanks (HUTS) via the "B" Train RHR suction relief valve. With the reactor coolant system (RCS) at 170 degrees F. and 350 psi, unit operators began drawing a pressurizer bubble. As a result of drawing the bubble, RCS pressure increased to 416 psi. At that point, the "B" RHR suction relief lifted prematurely and pressurizer level decreased rapidly to off-scale low. Charging lineup had been shifted to the Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST) in preparation for drawing the pressurizer bubble. Unit operators increased the operating charging pump flow rate to maximum and untagged and started a second charging pump in an attempt to restore pressurizer level. Based on reports from the HUT operator and equipment operators in the vicinity of the relief valves, unit operators believed the "A" RHR suction valve had lifted. Unit operators then isolated the "A" Train and placed the "B" Train in service. Subsequent indication and reports revealed that the "B" suction relief was the affected valve. Unit operators restored the "A" RHR Train to service and isolated the "B" Train. At that point, pressurizer level was restored and RCS pressure control reestablished. The unit was in the 90th day of a refueling outage and the reactor vessel level indication system read 100% throughout the event; therefore, the safety significance of the event was minimal. The licensee, with a vendor's representative on site, is evaluating the root cause of the RHR suction valve premature lift. The AIT concluded its investigation on December 4, 1989, and report preparation is in progress.

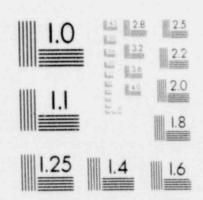


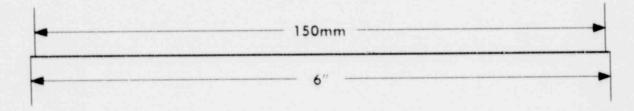




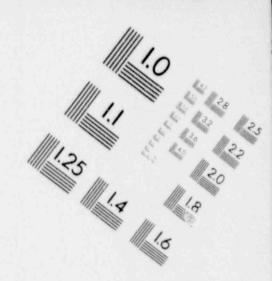
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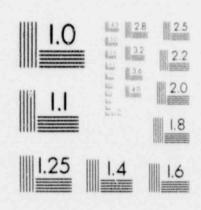


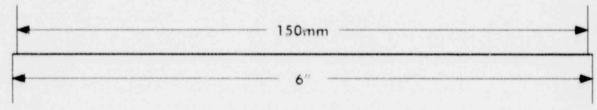




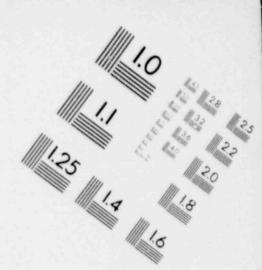
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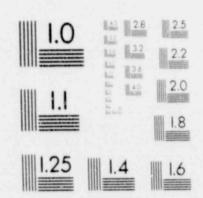


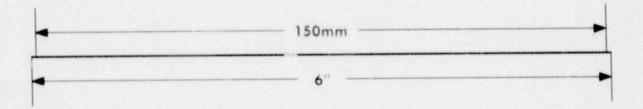




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4. Zion Nuclear Power Station

A procurement team inspection was conducted by the Vendor Programs Branch, NRR, and identified numerous deficiencies in the licensee's procurement and dedication of commercial grade equipment programs. The licensee's process of dedicating commercial grade equipment for safety grade application was called into question on more than 30 items presently in use at the station. On December 8, 1989, senior management from Region III and NRR attended the team's exit interview.

5. Fermi 2 Nuclear Plant

A special startup inspection team was sent to Fermi to provide 24-hour inspection coverage for plant startup following the plant's first refueling outage. The team will concentrate on pre-startup surveillance and plant operations.

6. Illinois Power Company, Clinton Nuclear Power Station

A. Bert Davis, Regional Administrator met on December 5, 1989, in the regional office with Mr. J. Stephen Perry, the new Vice President Nuclear for Illinois Power Company to discuss management plans for the Clinton Nuclear Power Station. The meeting was effective in establishing an interface and identifying common goals.

7. Perry Nuclear Power Station

On December 5, 1989, Dr. Paperiello, Region III Deputy Regional Administrator, J. Partlow, NRR Associate Director for Projects, and members of their staffs met with Mr. L. Phillips, President of Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and members of his staff for a routine management meeting in the NRC offices at White Flint. Topics discussed at the meeting included recent scram time surveillance test failures of two control rods, Perry plant performance since the last management meeting, fuel integrity, an update on resolution of the Diagnostic Team findings, status of the elevated drywell temperature followup and Quality Assurance's quarterly self assessment.

Region IV Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

1. URFO Meeting with Western Nuclear, Incorporated

The Director of URFO and select members of his staff met on December 4, 1989, with representatives of Western Nuclear, Incorporated, and their consultant, Landmark Reclamation, to discuss the Day Loma Disposal Area. The Day Loma heap leach facility is located in an extremely remote mining area in Wyoming, and has not been operational since 1973. Western Nuclear feels that reclamation is complete at this site and is requesting that the responsibility for the site be removed from their license for the Ship Rock Uranium Mill.

2. U.S. Air Force Meeting

During the week of December 4, 1989, representatives of Region IV and Region II met with U.S. Air Force representatives at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, to evaluate and summarize activities conducted by the licensee during the past year.

3. Gulf States Utilities

River Bend Station began a maintenance outage on December 1, 1989, to replace a reactor coolant pump seal, repair a reactor recirculation flow control valve controller, and repair a steam leak on a turbine moisture separator reheater. The outage had been scheduled to begin December 2, 1989, however, a reactor scram from 97 percent power occurred at 6:27 a.m. on December 1, 1989, when a breaker in a nearby switchyard failed.

4. River Bend Station

The licensee has identified a potentially significant safety issue that raises questions about the operability of MSIVs at BWRs that use ASCO, dual coil, solenoid operated valves (Model NP-8323). Two of the eight MSIVs at River Bend Station would not stay closed and would not have closed during an emergency. The apparent cause was residual lubricant that had become sticky. This problem has been identified at other BWRs and an information notice (IN 88-43) was issued. These solenoids had been previously cleaned by hand wiping with acetone to remove the lubricant, however, the cleaning process apparently was not adequate. A new ultrasonic cleaning technique has now been used at RBS and all MSIV duel coil solenoids have been replaced.

The licensee has been in contact with other licensees on this issue and is making an INPO note pad entry. Region IV is in contact with the Events Assessment and Generic Communication Branches to discuss the need for additional NRC action.

5. Waterford 3

A SALP Board meeting was held in the Region IV office on December 7, 1989, to assess the performance of Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, for the perfod August 1, 1988, through October 31, 1989. In addition to Region IV personnel, the meeting will be attended by representatives of the office of NRR and EDO.

6. Arkansas Power & Light Company

Representatives of the Arkansas Power & Light Company met in the Region IV office for an enforcement conference on December 8, 1989. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the findings from a special team inspection associated with safety-related wiring diagram deficiencies, five LERs that are apparent violations of NRC requirements, and issues associated with the recirculation flow for the Unit 2 emergency feedwater pumps.

Region V Items of Interest Week Ending December 8, 1989

1. San Onofre Units 2, and 3

A hydrogen fire occurred in the common (Units 2 and 3) Radwaste Building on 12/01/89 at approximately 1430 PST during the changeout of a relief valve on a waste gas decay tank. The fire was controlled within 10 minutes, but burned for approximately 55 minutes from the end of the 2" pipe. There were no injuries or equipment damage. There was a slight rise in the radioactivity monitored in the vent stack (from 10 micro curies per second to 30 micro curies per second) during the first hour, but within technical specification limits. After the fire died out, the flange connection was re-connected to prevent the leakage of additional hydrogen gas. The area was ventilated to prevent the accumulation of hydrogen gas. Unit 2 restarted on 12/07/89, after completion of a root cause evaluation.

2. Diablo Canyon Unit 1

Pacific Gas and Electric has been evaluating a condition where pressurizer safety valve setpoints were found high on Unit 1 during testing after the plant was shutdown for refueling. The licensee performed an analysis consistent with FSAR assumptions and determined that the increased setpoints would have resulted in a maximum reactor coolant system pressure of about 2783 psia. This is 33 psi above the 2750 psia technical specification limiting safety system setpoint. The licensee also performed an analysis assuming the operation of one of the three pressurizer power operated relief valves which demonstrated that peak pressure would have been 2724 psia. The licensee has determined that Unit 2 safety valves were acceptably set and that the Unit 1 valves have been acceptably reset in a test loop. The Region will follow-up with NRR to assess specific and generic actions.

ITEMS ADDRESSED BY THE COMMISSION - WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 8, 1989

- A. STAFF REQUIREMENTS AFFIRMATION/DISCUSSION AND VOTE, 3:30 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1989, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE) SECY to W. C. Parler, GC dated 12/7/89
 - I. SECY-89-248 Rulemaking on Sequestration of Witnesses Interviewed Under Subpoena/Exclusion of Attorneys

The Commission, by a 4-0 vote, approved a final rule which provides for the sequestration of witnesses compelled by subpoena to appear in connection with NRC investigations or inspections. The amendment also provides for the exclusion of counsel for a subpoenaed witness when that counsel represents multiple interests and there is a reasonable basis to believe that such representation will prejudice, impede, or impair the integrity of the inquiry.

The Federal Register Notice should be forwarded to the Regulatory Publication Branch, ADM, for review to ensure consistency with Federal Register requirements and then to SECY for signature and publication.

II. SECY-89-343 - Request for Hearing on St. Lucie Exemption

The Commission, by a 4-0 vote, approved an order denying a request by Thomas J. Saporito, Jr., for a hearing on an exemption from the Commission's regulations granted by the staff to a Commission licensee.

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NRR MEETING NOTICES

December 8, 1989

1989	DATE/TIME	NUMBER	LOCATION	PURPOSE	APPLICANT/ ATTENDEES	NRR CONTACT
	12/12/89 9:00-4:00	50-605	White Flint Bldg. Room 12B-11	GECo will introduce the staff to the simplified passive advanced light water reactor, SBWR.	NRC/GECo	D. Scaletti
	12/12/89 11:00-2:30	50-395	White Flint Bldg. Room 14B-9	Discuss the status of licensing for V. C. Summer Nuclear Station.	NRC/SCE&G	J. Hayes
	12/12/89 1:00-3:00	50-259/ 260/296/ 327/328	White Flint Bldg. Room 4B-13	Discuss TVA's process controls for the handling of DOL cases.	NRC/TVA	T. Daniels
	12/13/89 9:35-3:00		White Flint Bldg. Room 12B-11	Meeting with CE to introduce the staff to the safe integral design. This will help the staff in formulating policy and technical issues concerning passive plants.	NRC/CE	R. Singh
	12/13/89 10:00-3:00	50-029	White Flint Bldg. Room 6B-11	Discuss content of Plant Pilot System Evaluation Report for Yankee Rowe.	NRC/UNPS	M. Fairtile

^{*} Copies of summaries of these meetings will be made publicly available and placed in the respective docket file(s) in the NRC and local public document rooms.

A listing of these meeting notices can be obtained by calling 492-7424.

NRR MEETING NOTICES

December 8, 1989

DATE/TIME	NUMBER	LOCATION	PURPOSE	APPLICANT/ ATTENDEES	NRR CONTACT
12/15/89 1:00-3:00		White Flint Bldg. Room 8B-11	Discussing reactor water cleanup system containment cooling for Mark II Reactors.	NRC/ANL	L. Lois
12/18/89 1:00-4:00	50-259/ 260/296/ 327/328	White Flint Bldg. Room 108-11	TVA will present its plans for plant integrated living schedules for Browns Ferry and Sequoyah.	NRC/TVA	J. Donohew
12/18/89 2:00	50-247	White Flint Bldg. Room 14B-11	Discuss a proposed revision to the Quality Assurance Plan for Indian Point Unit 2.	NRC/CE	D. Brinkman
12/20/89 10:00	50-400	White Flint Bldg. Room 10B-11	Discuss the recent Generator- transformer fire.	NRC/CP&L	R. Becker
12/20/89 10:00-4:00	50-324/ 325	White Flint Bldg. Room 8B-11	Discuss Brunswick Technical Specification Interpretations	NRC/CP&L	E. Tourigny
1/11/89 1:00-5:00	50-259/ 260/296/	White Flint Bldg. Room 6B-11	Discuss TVA's status on the incorporation of the engineering assurance function into the QA organization.	NRC/TVA	G. Gears

Division of High-Level Waste Management

Date/Time	Docket Number	Location	Purpose	Attendees/ Applicant	NRC Contact
12/19-20 8:30 a.m.		OWFN 4-B-11	For NRC and DOE to discuss NRC's draft Seismic Hazards Methodology Technical Position	K. Stablein P. Justus, et al. DOE Reps. State of Nevada Reps.	K. Stablein
12/13		OWFN 14-B-11	Bi-weekly QA on HLW repository QA	J. Linehan J. Kennedy DOE Staff	M. Delligatti

Division of Safeguards and Transportation

Date/Time	Docket Number	Location	Purpose	Attendees/ Applicant	NRC - Contact
12/19		Ottawa, Canada	To attend coordination meeting of U.S./Canadian		C. Emeigh

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RES Meeting Notices

Date/Time	Docket Number	Location		Attendees/ Applicant	NRC Contact
			Division of Systems Research		
12/18-19		Annapolis, Md.	DCH Workshop	Sheron, Murphy, Eltawila	F. Eltawila 492-3569
1/18-19/90		Washington, DC Area	Attend NUREG-1150 Peer Review Committee Meeting	J. Murphy & M. Cunningham	M. Cunningham 492-3965
3/8-9/90		Washington, DC Area	Attend NUREG-1150 Peer Review Committee Meeting	J. Murphy & M. Cunningham	M. Cunningham 492-3965

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data

December 8, 1989.

	Docket
Date/Time	Number

12/4-15

umber <u>Location</u>

Operations Center

Working Session of the FRPCC to develop a draft revision of the FRERP

Purpose

Attendees/ Applicant

Federal Response Subcommittee of the FRPCC NRC Contact

Rosemary Hogan

December 8, 1989 .

Region I Meeting Notices

Date/Time	Docket Number	Location	Purpose	Attendees/ Applicant	NRC Contact
12/19/89 10:00 am	50-387 50-388	RI Office	Management Meeting PP&L - Susquehanna 1/2	Licensee and Selected RI Staff Members	Swetland
12/20/89 10:00 am	50-247	RI Office	Management Meeting CONED - Indian Point 2	Licensee and Selected RI Staff Members	Tripp

RII MEETING NOTICE

DATE/TIME	DOCKET NUMBER	LOCATION	PURPUSE	ATTENDEES/ APPLICANT	NRC CONTACT
12/11/89 1:00 p.m.		RII Office	Enforcement Conference - GPC - Vogtle Facility	Licensee, RA, and selected RII Staff Members	Ebneter
12/13/89 11:00 a.m.		Baxley, GA	SALP Presentation GPC - Hatch Facility	Same as above	Ebneter
12/14/89 10:00 a.m.		Waynesboro, GA	SALP Presentation GPC - Vogtle Facility	Same as above	Ebneter
12/15/89 10:00 a.m.		RII Office	Enforcement Conference CP&L - Brunswick Facility	Licensee, RA, and selected RII Staff Members	Ebneter
12/19/89 8:30 a.m.		RII Office	SALP Board Meeting DPC - McGuire	Selected RII and HQs Staff Members	Reyes
12/20/89 8:30 a.m.		RII Office	SALP Board Meeting DPC - Catawba	Same as above	Reyes
12/22/89 9:00 a.m.		RII Office	Management Meeting FP&L - St. Lucie	Licensee, RA and selected RII Staff Members	Ebneter

Region III Meeting Notices

Date/Time	Docket Number	Location	Purpose	Attendees Applicant	NRC Contact
12/11/89 10:00 am		Headquarters	NRC/INPO Senior Management Meeting	Regional Administrator	Davis
12/14/89		Headquarters	Guidance for Operable Determinations in Current and Improved TS Program	NRR and all Regions	Miller
12/14/89 1:30 pm	030- 10749	Region III	Midwest Inspection Service, Ltd., Enforcement Conference	Licensee, Deputy Regional Administrator and selected RIII Staff Members	Norelius
12/15/89 1:00 pm	030- 21059	Region III	Braun Engineering Testing, Enforcement Conference	Licensee, Deputy Regional Administrator and selected RIII Staff Members	Norelius
12/19/89		Downers Grove, IL	DRP/NRR Retreat	Headquarters and RIII Staff Members	Greenman
12/20/89 2:00 pm	50-341	Region III	Meeting with Messrs. J. Lobbia and B. R. Sylvia, Detroit Edison Company	Licensee, Regional Administrator	Davis

Region IV Meeting Notice

December 8, 1989

Date	Docket Number	Location	Purpose	Attendees/ Applicant	RIV Contact
12/11 2:00	50-382	RIV Office	Enforcement conference to discuss technical issues involving fire seal work and QC inspections of fire seal work.	LP&L management; RIV management	D.Chamberlain
12/12 2:30		URFO	Review apparent saturated tailings situation at Durango, CO UMTRA Project disposal site in Bodo Canyon.		R.Ha11
12/14	-	URFO	Reclamation plan at Bear Creek uraniumill.	n Union Pacific &	R.Hall
12/15 10:00	50-458	RIV Office	Enforcement conference to discuss recirc flow oscillation findings in IR 50-458/89-41.	GSU management; RIV management	G.Constable
12/15 2:00	-	RIV Office	Enforcement conference with Ivinson Memorial Hospital.	Hospital management; RIV management	C.Cain
12/20 10:00		URFO	Meeting with state of WY, Dept. of Environmental Quality.	State Reps; URFO Staff	R.Ha11
12/20 1:00	50-482	RIV Office	Meeting at request of WCNOC to discuss general operating matters.	WCNOC; RIV management	G.Holler